

Hartford Courant

VOLUME CLXXXV

COURANT.COM

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2021

Legal pot was 'years overdue'

Nearly a decade after the state established a medical marijuana program, Connecticut narrowly legalized recreational use in June — with provisions to address inequality

By Seamus McAvoy | Hartford Courant

Connecticut, the land of steady habits, became the 19th state in the country to legalize recreational marijuana — nearly a decade after the state established a medical marijuana program.

Adults over the age of 21 can possess up to 1.5 ounces, transport up to 5 ounces in a

locked compartment in their car and keep up to 5 ounces at home. Retail stores are expected to open no earlier than late spring.

In addition to establishing a framework for a retail market, Connecticut's bill, passed narrowly by legislators in June, also includes several provisions aimed at addressing the longstanding inequities which have long surrounded drug crime and use.

"We had a chance to learn from others and I think we got it right here in the state of Connecticut," said Gov. Ned Lamont. "We weren't the first but we were the first to show we can get it right."

The Hartford Courant has selected recreational marijuana as one of Connecticut's top 10 stories of 2021. Courant editors selected the year's top stories based on

Turn to Pot, Page 2

TOP 10
STORIES OF 2021

Another record-high positivity rate. 75 deaths reported over the last week. Yale delays the start of spring semester.

SPREAD IS FAST, BROAD



ABOVE: Kor'dae Delpeche, 6, of East Hartford, points to which arm she would like her shot in as sister K'hloee Delpeche, 5, left, looks on at UConn Health's vaccine program at Global Communications Academy in Hartford. **TOP:** Mavisha Madhan, of Manchester, waits in line. **JESSICA HILL / SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

By Eliza Fawcett
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's seven-day COVID-19 test positivity rate reached a record high on Thursday, climbing to 8.04%, as hospitalizations also returned to their highest point since early February.

COVID-19 has rapidly spread in Connecticut in recent weeks, driven by the highly transmissible omicron variant. According to Yale School of Public Health researchers, omicron accounts for 74% of recent cases in the areas of the state under their surveillance, with delta making up the rest.

The acceleration of the virus has begun to yield new restrictions in some municipalities and institutions. Stamford and Norwalk reinstated indoor mask mandates for public

places this week. In New Haven, which has maintained a mask mandate since August, Mayor Justin Elicker announced additional restrictions Thursday, including a suspension of in-person services such as senior centers, effective Monday.

"The rapid increase is new infections is deeply concerning," Elicker said in a statement. "This winter surge coupled with the new, highly infective, omicron variant increases the risk of prolonged indoor gatherings."

Late Wednesday night, Yale University announced that it will delay the start of the spring semester and move the first few weeks of classes online, citing the omicron variant. The university also will shorten its spring break in March from two weeks to one week.

Turn to Spread, Page 3

State economy outpaced US gains in summer

Powered by finance industry, Connecticut 15th in nation

By Stephen Singer
Hartford Courant

Connecticut's economy grew faster than the national economy in the July-to-September quarter, led by a strong recovery in the state's extensive finance and insurance industry, the U.S. Commerce Department

reported Thursday.

The state's \$299.8 billion economy expanded at a 2.7% annual rate in the third quarter as the U.S. economy grew by 2.3%. Connecticut's growth rate placed it No. 15 among the states, an unusually high ranking. It ranked No. 29 in the second quarter.

The state's finance, insurance and real estate sector has "been a stellar performer," economist Donald Klepper-Smith said. "It's been what's keeping Connecticut above water."

"These are engines of economic growth that are helping Connecticut at a crucial point in the business cycle," he said.

The chief beneficiaries are businesses and workers in Hartford, the center of much of the state's insurance industry, and Fairfield County, home to Wall Street brokers and others in the financial industry, Klepper-Smith said.

Connecticut's economy was the second

Turn to Economy, Page 3

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK



A man reads a book while waiting at a mobile COVID-19 test site in New York on Thursday. Holiday travel coupled with the rapidly spreading omicron variant left Americans scrambling to find tests. **BRYAN R. SMITH/GETTY-APF**

Dearth of tests clouds holiday

Long lines and scarce kits delay results for Americans just days before Christmas

By Jim Mustian, Jeffrey Collins and Candice Choi
Associated Press

NEW YORK — President Joe Biden promised to distribute hundreds of millions of free COVID-19 tests and to open more testing sites to fight surging infections, but the stepped-up efforts will not come in time for people who want to find out if they are infected before the holidays.

Americans have been searching drugstores for scarce home tests or waiting hours in chilly temperatures at testing facilities across the country.

"Not everyone can take three hours off work to get tested, but it feels like it's the only thing we have the power to do," said Jordan Thomas, who waited nearly four hours for a test this week in the Brooklyn borough of New York City.

In Atlanta, drugstores ran out of home tests, and police shut down testing sites as traffic backed up a half-mile or more. A drive-thru testing site in Columbia, South Carolina, that for months had quicker lines than some nearby Chick-fil-A restaurants had waits of an hour or more days before Christmas. Workers warned that results could take longer than the typical 24 to 36 hours.

Turn to Tests, Page 3

NOTE TO READERS

Connecticut news can be found in the A section of the Hartford Courant through Jan. 4, except for Sunday, Dec. 26 and Sunday, Jan. 2, when the Connecticut section will be included. We are reducing the size of the paper in order to give members of our staff time to spend with their families. The Connecticut section will return to the daily paper on Jan. 5.

Rick Green, director of content,
rbgreen@courant.com

State Supreme Court orders new congressional map

Nathaniel Persily, the political scientist who revised Connecticut's congressional map 10 years ago, was hired Thursday by the state Supreme Court to do the job again. **NEWS, PAGE 8**

Opinion.....**News, 11**
Obits**News, 14-15**
Lottery.....**News, 2**
Classified.....**News, 12-13**

Puzzles ...**Connecticut, 5-6**
Comics ...**Connecticut, 4-5**

Hartford Courant
media group

\$3.00 Copyright 2021
The Hartford Courant Co.



6 04209 00200

FROM PAGE ONE

“I love the fact that our equity fund ... is going to give folks who otherwise don’t have access to capital the capital they need to start up their own business, focused on the most distressed communities, those that were hardest hit by the war on drugs, making up for some lost time there.” — Gov. Ned Lamont

Pot
from Page 1

reader interest and significance.

The legislation was “88 years overdue,” Senate President Pro Tem Martin Looney said, but moved relatively quickly once in front of lawmakers after several failed attempts in previous years.

Debate between the Lamont administration, which wrote much of the roughly 300-page bill, and Democratic lawmakers largely focused on equity provisions that would guarantee access to the new retail market for people from communities most impacted by drug criminalization.

“We want to ensure there’s a broad diversity of individuals who are able to enter that marketplace, start a business, create their own wealth and benefit from what will be a new market,” House Majority Leader Jason Rojas, from East Hartford, said in May.

Lawmakers decided to issue licenses to sell the drug through a lottery. Half of the licenses are reserved for “social equity applicants,” or applicants who come from economically disadvantaged areas most harmed by the war on drugs, who also will pay reduced licensing fees.

It was concern over equity that cast the bill’s future into question, as Lamont’s office threatened to veto the bill just days before the House of Representatives was scheduled to vote on it.

House lawmakers wanted to ensure the bill’s equity provision was expanded to include people with prior marijuana convictions, and added an amendment reflecting that to the version passed by the Senate.

Paul Mounds, Lamont’s



Gov. Ned Lamont signs into law the legalization of recreational marijuana on June 22 in Hartford. MARK MIRKO/HARTFORD COURANT

chief of staff, said the measure “creates equity in name only,” because it could allow a person from a wealthy community who was once caught with a single joint to become an “equity applicant.”

In a slight tweak, the final version passed by the Senate gives people from cities that have borne the brunt of the war on drugs priority for expedited licenses, whether or not they have a criminal

record. People charged with possession of 4 ounces or less of cannabis can now petition to have their criminal record erased.

“We have operated for 50 years with unjust laws that target certain communities,” said Sen. Gary Winfield, a Democrat from New Haven and one of the architects of the bill. “We should never have done that.”

Lamont’s concerns were

eventually addressed and he called the bill he signed on June 22 “a model for the rest of the nation.”

“I love the fact that our equity fund ... is going to give folks who otherwise don’t have access to capital the capital they need to start up their own business, focused on the most distressed communities, those that were hardest hit by the war on drugs, making up for some lost time there,”

Lamont said.

The bill was not without Republican opposition. House Republican leader Vincent Candelora was a consistent critic of the legislation, which he said was dangerous for young people.

Republican leaders filed at least a dozen amendments on the bill, including a ban on edibles that resemble candy, limits on marijuana-related adver-

tising and a requirement for marijuana products to contain an advisory that they contain potentially harmful health effects. None were approved.

Tax revenue generated from legal marijuana sales is expected to grow to \$73.4 million by the 2025-2026 budget year.

Seamus McAvoy may be reached at smcavoy@courant.com

Hartford Courant
A TRIBUNE PUBLISHING COMPANY

NEWS EXECUTIVES

Megan R. Merrigan
Director, Audience
Richard B. Green
Director, Content

BUSINESS EXECUTIVES

Mary Lou Stoneburner
Vice President, Advertising
Dana S. Bisconti
Director, Finance
Brian W. McEnery
Director, Distribution

HOW TO REACH US

The Hartford Courant and www.courant.com
P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569
860-241-6200 (Local calling area)
800-524-4242 (Outside the Hartford area)

Our Circulation Customer Service is open Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Saturday and Sunday from 7 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

NEWSPAPER DELIVERY
860-525-5555

Subscriptions, missed delivery or missing sections, vacation stops, billing questions. For same-day redelivery, please call before 10 a.m. daily, 11:30 a.m. Sunday. All numbers are 860 area code unless otherwise noted.

ADVERTISING 241-6221
Classified 525-2525
classified@courant.com 800-842-8824
Death notices/Obituaries 241-6392
NEWS 241-6747
SPORTS 241-6435
EDITORIAL PAGE/LETTERS 241-6595
NEWS ACCURACY AND FAIRNESS CONCERNS
E-mail reader@courant.com
Phone 241-3902

The Hartford Courant proudly participates in a comprehensive recycling program to help protect the earth's environment. You can join us by recycling this newspaper.

Published daily and Sunday by The Hartford Courant Company (ISSN 1047-4153). Periodicals postage paid at Hartford, CT. Postmaster send address changes to: The Hartford Courant, P.O. Box 569, Hartford, CT 06141-0569. Home delivery rates: Daily and Sunday (7 days), \$17.99; *Thursday through Sunday (4 days) \$13.99; *Thursday, Friday and Sunday (3 days) \$12.50; Thursday and Sunday (2 days) \$10.50; Sunday-only service \$8.99, includes the Thanksgiving paper; Sunday through Friday (6 days) \$12.25; Monday through Friday (5 days) \$12.50; Monday through Saturday (6 days) \$11.58. All subscriptions may include up to 12 premium issues per year. For each premium issue, your account balance will be charged an additional fee up to \$5.99 in the billing period when the section publishes. This will result in shortening the length of your billing period. Premium issues scheduled to date: 1/10/21, 2/14/21, 3/28/21, 4/18/21, 5/16/21, 6/13/21, 7/11/21, 8/8/21, 9/5/21, 10/10/21, 11/21/21, 12/19/21. Dates are subject to change without notice. *Service not available in all areas. Rates may vary based on subscription length. Vacation stops do not extend expiration dates. We may increase home delivery rates with 15 days notice. The Hartford Courant reserves the right to revise or reject any advertisement. Only publication of the advertisement shall constitute acceptance of the advertisement. The Hartford Courant shall not be responsible for the omission, in whole or in part, of any advertisement or for any typographical or other error. The Hartford Courant's liability shall be limited to the amount paid by the advertiser for the first insertion only. In no event shall The Hartford Courant be liable for consequential damages of any kind.

BREAKING NEWS
Be the first to know when news breaks
SIGN UP TODAY
courant.com/newsletters

LOTTERY

Thursday, Dec. 23

PLAY3 DAY
9 2 1 WB: 5
PLAY4 DAY
8 9 2 3 WB: 3
The late lotto numbers were not drawn in time for this edition. For results, please visit courant.com/lottery
WEDNESDAY'S LATE NUMBERS
PLAY3 NIGHT
0 2 0 WB: 6
PLAY4 NIGHT
7 6 4 8 WB: 8
CASH 5
1 12 15 18 27
LUCKY FOR LIFE
4 29 32 35 46 LB: 17
POWERBALL
7 16 19 48 68 PB: 15 PP: 2
Tonight's est. Lotto jackpot: \$2.7M
Tonight's est. Mega Millions jackpot: \$187M
Saturday's est. Powerball jackpot: \$400M

DANIELS ENERGY™
THE HOME COMFORT SPECIALISTS
Propane
Let Daniels Do It!
Daniels Has Propane Tanks In Stock!
Propane Tank Installs & Leases
Whole House Heating
Piping For Generators & Appliances
High Efficiency Water Heaters
Super Competitive Pricing
24/7/365 Service
\$100 OFF
First Fill Order or on Piping!
Call Tim: 860.813.9121
Must become automatic delivery customer. Minimum 500 gals per year otherwise bonus offer charged back.
Daniels Energy: CT License S1-385517 HOD#19 / Daniels Propane LLC #846 CT License S1-302857

Get more out of your subscription by setting up your digital account
• More articles than what's in print
• Breaking News alerts with the mobile app
• Unlimited access to our website
• eNewspaper, a digital replica of the paper emailed daily
It's easy to start your online access!
Visit: go-activate.com
VALUED SUBSCRIBER
TRIBUNE PUBLISHING

Challenge Yourself with Sudoku
EVERY DAY IN Living

FROM PAGE ONE

Economy

from Page 1

largest in New England, after Massachusetts, with a \$637.4 billion economy that expanded much faster, at a 3.7% rate, placing it No. 3 in the U.S.

New Hampshire's \$94.3 billion economy contracted by 3.3%, the only state economy in the region to shrink and placing it No. 49. Vermont turned in an anemic 0.4% rate of growth, Maine had a 1.7% growth rate and Rhode Island's economy expanded by 2.2%.

Economic growth expanded in 37 states and Washington, D.C., in the third quarter, the Commerce Department reported. The percent change ranged from 6% in Hawaii to -3.3% in New Hampshire and North Dakota.

The data reflect continued economic impacts related to the COVID-19 pandemic, the federal agency said.

David Lehman, state economic development commissioner, credited Connecticut's improving fiscal position. Bond agencies have upgraded the state's credit rating, the state has paid \$1.6 billion in pension debt and state budgets in the last few years have been enacted on time.

"It's a very pragmatic, business-focused mindset," he said. "It's conducive for the growth of firms."

Connecticut's economic growth picked up speed relative to the U.S. economy. It ran ahead of the nation in the third quarter while it trailed in the second quarter.

"We're running faster than the pack but the pack is way in front of us," said Fred Carstensen, professor of finance and economics at the University of Connecticut. "It's a good number. Delighted to see it. But I'm skeptical we turned the corner."

Connecticut's challenge will be to keep the economic growth going, he said.

"This is nice to see," he said. "Let's hope it's a trend and not a one-off blip. Let's be patient."

Several sectors of Connecticut's economy shrank in the third quarter: utilities, construction, wholesale and retail trade and government. Durable goods manufacturing — furniture, appliances and machinery — shrank, while nondurable manufacturing — clothing and shoes, textiles and chemicals — expanded.

More sectors expanded than contracted. They included health care, education and professional, technical and scientific services. Finance and insurance posted the biggest growth.

Finance and insurance increased 7.8% nationally and contributed to increases in all 50 states and Washington, D.C. The industry was the leading contributor to economic expansion in 13 states, the Department of Commerce said.

The National Association of Insurance Commissioners said in its 2020 Profitability Report released Wednesday that total premiums earned increased for the 11th consecutive year while losses incurred and loss adjustment expenses remained relatively flat.

Peter Kochenburger, executive director of the Insurance Law Program at the UConn School of Law, said other factors contributing to the industry's strength are successful efforts fighting lawsuits by businesses seeking compensation for pandemic-related shutdowns and the booming stock market.

Insurers still face challenges such as an increasing number of destructive storms due to climate change, but overall, the industry has "done well and weathered better than predicted a year and a half ago," he said.

Carstensen said economists and policymakers will be looking to see if economic growth will "translate into a recovery of quality jobs." Connecticut has been losing high-wage jobs that have been replaced by lower-paid employment for more than a decade, he said.

Employers added jobs every month this year as the labor force recovers from steep losses caused by business shutdowns at the start of the pandemic in March and April 2020. But government pandemic assistance payments to households and businesses decreased, raising questions about continued economic growth as federal assistance is cut, Klepper-Smith said.

Carstensen credited developments this year as good beginnings. Legislation establishing incentives to draw data centers to the state was enacted by Lamont and the General Assembly, but none so far are under contract, he said. Several companies are relocating headquarters to Fairfield County and Connecticut's biotech industry gives the state bragging rights.

"The big picture doesn't look like there's much change yet," Carstensen said. "Our trajectory still looks pretty weak."



Kennedy Stewart-Small, 8, gets her second shot from Kaitlin Percy at UConn Health's COVID-19 Vaccine Program at Global Communications Academy in Hartford. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Spread

from Page 1

"A recent, worldwide surge in COVID-19 cases, driven by the highly infectious Omicron strain, has prompted us to raise alert levels on campus and adjust our plans to best protect our community," university president Peter Salovey and provost Scott Strobbe said in a message to the Yale community Wednesday evening.

Yale College and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences will begin the next semester on Jan. 25, rather than Jan. 18. The week of Jan. 18 to 25 will be used to administer online makeup examinations for students who could not complete their finals this month due to the cancellation of a number of in-person exams. In-person teaching is expected to begin Feb. 7.

University officials encouraged staff, faculty and staff to wear a mask, get a booster shot and follow other COVID-19 prevention strategies.

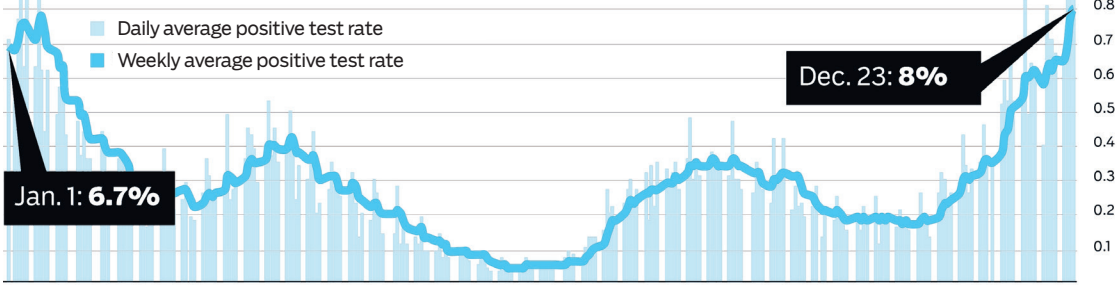
Cases and positivity rate

Connecticut reported 3,416 new COVID-19 cases Thursday out of 37,853 tests administered, for a daily positivity rate of 9.02%. The state's seven-day positivity rate now stands at 8.04%, once again the highest it has been since widespread testing began more than 18 months ago.

As of Thursday, 166 of Connecticut's 169 towns are in the state's "red-alert" category, meaning they are averaging at least 15 daily COVID-19 cases per

Weekly average positive test rate

Positive test rate from Jan. 1 to Dec. 23



SOURCE: CT Department of Public Health

100,000 residents.

All eight Connecticut counties — as well as the rest of those in the Northeast region — are currently recording "high" levels of COVID-19 transmission as defined by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. With this level of transmission, the CDC advises people to wear a mask in public indoor settings.

Also on Thursday the West Hartford-Bloomfield Health District issued a mask advisory, urging all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear a mask when they enter indoor spaces not part of their household. This includes holiday parties, restaurants and businesses.

"COVID-19 cases are surging, and we often see spread between family and friends who let their guard down at holiday gatherings," Health Director Aimee Krauss said. "Further, we are seeing an increase in breakthrough cases for vaccinated persons, which we believe is due to the spread of the omicron variant. The omicron variant is highly contagious, and it will cause an exponential rise in cases. For these reasons, we are recommending

that everyone practice universal masking as cases continue to surge."

Hospitalizations

As of Thursday, Connecticut has 837 patients hospitalized with COVID-19, an increase of 16 since Wednesday. Hospitalizations are again at their highest point since Feb. 4, as was the case on Monday.

According to the state, 75.9% of people hospitalized with COVID-19 are unvaccinated. Hospital officials say the rate is even higher when looking specifically at people with severe symptoms.

Deaths

Connecticut reported 75 additional COVID-19 deaths on Thursday, bringing its total during the pandemic to 9,077. Weekly deaths related to COVID-19 have not been so high since late February and early March.

As COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations have surged in Connecticut over recent weeks, deaths have risen slightly but still remain far below the levels recorded last winter.

The United States has recorded 812,518 COVID-19 deaths since the pandemic began.

Vaccinations

As of Wednesday, 87.6% of all Connecticut residents and 95% of those 12 and older had received at least one COVID-19 vaccine dose, while 74.2% of all residents and 83.4% of those 12 and older were fully vaccinated, according to the CDC. Also, about 38.4% of fully vaccinated Connecticut residents 18 or older have received a booster dose.

Connecticut residents who are unvaccinated are four times more likely to be infected with COVID-19, 13 times more likely to be hospitalized with COVID-19 and 13 times more likely to die from COVID-19, according to state data.

The CDC warns that booster shots are sometimes misclassified as first doses, likely inflating the reported number of first-dose coverage and understating the true number of people who have received boosters.

Eliza Fawcett can be reached at elfawcett@courant.com.

Tests

from Page 1

Fueling the surging demand for tests is a mix of factors, including families seeking to keep holiday gatherings safe and people needing to prove they are virus-free for travel, work or school. Adding to the pressure is the extra-contagious omicron variant, which has a multiplying effect on the number of people seeking tests after being exposed to an infected person.

In the United States, infections average around 149,000 a day, up from 75,000 a day at the start of November.

Testing can help ensure safety at gatherings, even if people do not have symptoms and were not exposed to the virus, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"Take a test before you gather," the agency's director, Dr. Rochelle Walensky, said this week as omicron led to spiking cases ahead of the holidays.

But efforts to follow that guidance and to meet the requirements of some employers and schools have strained testing capacity in many places.

Detjoun Bushgokaj was among hundreds of people seeking a test in Everett, Massachusetts, just north of Boston. He waited about 90 minutes after his 6-year-old daughter, who has not been vaccinated yet, tested positive after falling ill with a fever.

"As soon as my wife called, I left work and came right here. I work with a lot of people and in different places so I needed to make sure," said Bushgokaj, who is vaccinated. He said his daughter's illness has added uncertainty to their holiday break.

In New York City, drugstores posted signs alerting customers



People wait their turn to receive coronavirus home test kits at a distribution site Thursday in New York City. CRAIG RUTTLE/AP

that they had sold out of tests. Lines wrapped around blocks at some testing sites, with some saying results could take three to four days.

For next-day results, one site listed a price of \$150. For results in two hours, the price was \$389.

Though the technology to process PCR lab tests takes less than a day, testing sites and labs face staffing struggles like many other businesses, said Mara Aspinall, who teaches biomedical diagnostics at Arizona State University and is on the board of OraSure, a COVID-19 test maker.

Manufacturers are working to increase supplies. Abbott said it's seeing "unprecedented demand" for its popular BinaxNOW tests and that it plans to expand production to 70 million tests in January, up from more than 50 million this month. The company said it can further boost production in coming months.

In the meantime, Walgreens said it's limiting people to four boxes per purchase in stores and online. CVS said it's limiting people to six kits per purchase.

Biden announced Tuesday that the federal government would for the first time start mailing 500 million free rapid tests directly to Americans in January.

Details have not yet been released, but officials say that people will be able to use a new website to order their tests, which will be mailed to them at no charge.

The government will use the Defense Production Act to help manufacture more tests.

New federal testing sites will also be set up, starting this week in New York.

The changes come after public health experts for months urged U.S. officials to make testing more accessible, pointing to countries such as the United Kingdom and

Germany, which have distributed billions of tests to the public and recommended people test themselves twice a week.

Experts say the latest efforts still will not be enough for all Americans to test at that rate. The U.S. would need 2.3 billion tests per month for everyone 12 and older to do that, according to the nonprofit Kaiser Family Foundation.

The availability of tests varies around the country.

At a city-run children's day camp in Fort Collins, Colorado, boxes of rapid tests were available for free this week. Staffers told parents to take as many as they needed.

Demand for testing is only set to increase after the holidays, when people will want to know if their travels and gatherings resulted in infections, noted Dr. Marcus Plescia, chief medical officer for the Association of State and Territorial Health Officials.

Ex-Minn. cop guilty of manslaughter

Said she confused gun for Taser before killing driver Daunte Wright

By Amy Forliti and Scott Bauer
Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — Jurors on Thursday convicted a suburban Minneapolis police officer of two manslaughter charges in the killing of Daunte Wright, a Black motorist she shot during a traffic stop after she said she confused her gun for her Taser.

The mostly white jury deliberated for about four days before finding former Brooklyn Center officer Kim Potter guilty of first-degree and second-degree manslaughter.

Potter, 49, faces about seven years in prison on the most serious count under the state's sentencing guidelines, but prosecutors said they would seek a longer term.

Judge Regina Chu ordered Potter taken into custody and held without bail, and scheduled her to be sentenced on Feb. 18.

Outside the courthouse, dozens of people who had gathered erupted in cheers, hugs and tears of joy as the verdicts were read. Two men jumped up and down holding one another's shoulders. Other people then began jumping up and down in place and chanting "Guilty, guilty, guilty!"

It was the second high-profile conviction of a police officer won this year by a team led by Attorney General Keith Ellison, including some of the same attorneys who helped convict Derek Chauvin in George Floyd's death in



Daunte Wright's mother, Katie Bryant, center, speaks after the verdict was announced Thursday. KEREM YUCEL/GETTY-APP

the same courtroom eight months earlier.

Outside the courthouse afterward, Ellison said the verdict brought a measure of accountability for Potter but fell short of justice.

"Justice would be restoring Daunte to life and making the Wright family whole again," Ellison said.

Ellison said he felt sympathy for Potter, who has gone from being an "esteemed member to the community" to being convicted of a serious crime.

Wright's mother, Katie Bryant, hugged Ellison and said the verdicts triggered "every single emotion that you could imagine."

"Today we have gotten

accountability and that's what we've been asking for from the beginning," Katie Bryant said, crediting supporters for keeping up pressure.

Potter, who is white, shot and killed the 20-year-old Wright during an April 11 traffic stop in Brooklyn Center as she and other officers were trying to arrest him on an outstanding warrant for a weapons possession charge. The shooting happened at a time of high tension in the area, with Chauvin standing trial in nearby Minneapolis for Floyd's death. Potter resigned two days later.

Jurors saw video of the shooting that was captured

by police body cameras and dashcams. It showed Potter and an officer she was training, Anthony Luckey, pull over Wright for having expired license plate tags and an air freshener hanging from his rear-view mirror. During the stop, Luckey discovered there was a warrant for Wright's arrest for not appearing in court on the weapons possession charge, and he, Potter and another officer went to take Wright into custody.

Wright obeyed Luckey's order to get out of his car, but as Luckey tried to handcuff him, Wright pulled away and got back in. As Luckey held onto Wright, Potter said "I'll tase ya." The video

then shows Potter holding her gun in her right hand and pointing it at Wright. Again, Potter said, "I'll tase you," and then two seconds later: "Taser, Taser, Taser."

One second later, she fired a single bullet into Wright's chest.

"(Expletive)! I just shot him. ... I grabbed the wrong (expletive) gun," Potter said. A minute later, she said: "I'm going to go to prison."

In sometimes tearful testimony, Potter told jurors that she was "sorry it happened." She said the traffic stop "just went chaotic" and that she shouted her warning about the Taser after she saw a look of fear on the face of Sgt. Mychal Johnson, who

was leaning into the passenger-side door of Wright's car.

She also told jurors that she doesn't remember what she said or everything that happened after the shooting, as much of her memory of those moments "is missing."

Potter's lawyers argued that she made a mistake by drawing her gun instead of her Taser. But they also said she would have been justified in using deadly force if she had meant to because Johnson was at risk of being dragged.

Prosecutors sought to raise doubts about Potter's testimony that she decided to act after seeing fear on Johnson's face. Eldridge, in cross-examination, pointed out that in an interview with a defense expert, Potter said she didn't know why she decided to draw her Taser. During her closing argument, Eldridge also replayed Potter's body-camera video that she said never gave a clear view of Johnson's face during the key moments.

For first-degree manslaughter, prosecutors had to prove that Potter caused Wright's death while committing a misdemeanor — in this case, the "reckless handling or use of a firearm so as to endanger the safety of another with such force and violence that death or great bodily harm to any person was reasonably foreseeable."

The second-degree manslaughter charge required prosecutors to prove that Potter caused Wright's death "by her culpable negligence," meaning she "caused an unreasonable risk and consciously took a chance of causing death or great bodily harm" to Wright while using or possessing a firearm.

FDA clears Merck's pill for treating COVID-19

Molnupiravir only OK'd for high-risk adults with virus

By Rebecca Robbins and Carl Zimmer
The New York Times

The Food and Drug Administration on Thursday authorized a second antiviral pill for COVID-19 but said it should not be preferred over other treatments.

The FDA cleared the pill, developed by Merck and known as molnupiravir, for adults who are vulnerable to becoming severely ill from COVID-19 and for whom alternative treatment options are "not accessible or clinically appropriate."

The agency's decision reflects concerns that Merck's pill is only modestly effective and carries possible safety risks, including for pregnant women.

Merck's treatment is expected to be available early next month.

With the omicron variant driving an onslaught of infections, the drug will be in greater supply in the coming weeks than other treatments in the United States.

Older people and those who have conditions such as obesity, diabetes or heart

disease would be eligible to get a prescription for Merck's pills if they become sick from the coronavirus and cannot get treatments like Pfizer's newly authorized pills or monoclonal antibody drugs. Both vaccinated and unvaccinated people will be eligible.

But while the agency authorized Pfizer's treatment for high-risk COVID-19 patients as young as 12, it said that it was authorizing Merck's drug only for adults because it "may affect bone and cartilage growth."

Even before the FDA's decision, some doctors and health officials had tempered expectations for Merck's drug.

It appears far less effective than a similar pill from Pfizer, which received FDA authorization Wednesday and is expected to become more widely available in the United States starting in a few months.

In a key clinical trial, Merck's drug reduced the risk of hospitalization or death by 30% when given to high-risk, unvaccinated people within five days of the onset of symptoms. Pfizer's pill was found to reduce that risk by 88%.

"I don't think Merck's version is going to be the game-changer," said Dr.

Walid Gellad, who directs the Center for Pharmaceutical Policy and Prescribing at the University of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Dean Li, a Merck executive, said Thursday that preliminary laboratory studies suggested that the drug was equally effective against omicron as it was against earlier versions of the virus. The company and independent researchers have been running experiments on how well the drug can stop the omicron variant from replicating.

The pills from Merck and Pfizer can be taken at home and are expected to reach many more people globally than monoclonal antibody treatments, which are typically given via intravenous infusions by a health care provider.

Merck's treatment is meant to be taken as 40 pills over five days. The company is ready to ship the first 378,000 courses for the United States within days. Merck is expected to fulfill the federal government's full order of enough pills for 3.1 million people, at a cost of about \$700 a person, by the end of January.

Pfizer is expected to provide enough of its pills, known as Paxlovid, for 265,000 Americans before the end of January.



People check their rapid COVID-19 test results this week at a testing site on the Lower East Side of Manhattan. The FDA on Thursday OK'd Merck's pill for treatment. BRITTAINY NEWMAN/AP

The federal government on Thursday allocated the first 65,000 treatment courses to states and said the first shipments would begin arriving within the next few days.

As was done with COVID-19 vaccines, the federal government will allocate the pills to states, which can then distribute them to health departments and pharmacies. The government will also ship the pills directly to community health centers.

To get Merck's pills, the FDA said, patients must test

positive for the virus and get a prescription from a health care provider, no more than five days after symptoms emerge.

Merck's pill works by introducing errors into the virus's genes to stop it from replicating, which has raised concerns about the risk that it could cause reproductive harm. The risk is hypothetical, and Merck says it has not been borne out in its studies.

The FDA said that women who were pregnant should generally not take the pills, but that there could be exceptions. The agency

said that women who may become pregnant should use contraception while taking the pills and for at least four days after. The male partners of women who could become pregnant should use contraception while taking the pills and for at least three months after, the agency said.

Some scientists have also raised concerns that the pills could in theory cause the virus to mutate in a way that does not stop it from replicating but instead leads to the emergence of a new variant.



A man is tested for COVID-19 on Thursday at a walk-up site near the White House in Washington. JACQUELYN MARTIN/AP

Data: Hospitalization less likely with omicron

By Jill Lawless and Laura Ungar
Associated Press

LONDON — Preliminary data suggests that people with the omicron variant of the coronavirus are 50% to 70% less likely to be hospitalized than those with the delta strain, Britain's public health agency announced Thursday.

The findings from the U.K. Health Security Agency add to emerging evidence that omicron produces milder

illness than other variants. But scientists caution that any reductions in severity must be weighed against the fact that omicron spreads much faster than delta and is better at evading vaccines.

Based on cases in the U.K., a person with omicron is estimated to be 31% to 45% less likely to go to a hospital emergency department compared with someone with delta, "and 50 to 70% less likely to be admitted to hospital," the agency said.

It cautioned that the

analysis is "preliminary and highly uncertain" because of the small number of omicron patients in hospitals and the fact that most were in younger age groups. As of Dec. 20, there had been 132 people admitted to U.K. hospitals with confirmed omicron. Fourteen of them died, all between the ages of 52 and 96.

Countries around the world are watching Britain, where omicron is now dominant and where COVID-19 cases have surged by more

than 50% in a week.

Experts not involved with the analysis called it encouraging.

"To me, it's a small ray of sunlight among all the dark clouds," said Dr. Jonathan Li, director of the Harvard/Brigham Virology Specialty Laboratory.

The signs that omicron may cause less severe disease than delta also align with lab data suggesting omicron does not grow as well in cells derived from lungs, Li said.

WORLD & NATION

NEWS BRIEFING

Trump asks Supreme Court to block release of records from Jan. 6

From news services

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump turned to the Supreme Court on Thursday in a last-ditch effort to keep documents away from the House committee investigating the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol led by his supporters. Trump’s attorneys asked the Supreme Court to reverse lower court rulings against the former president, who has fought to block the records even after President Joe Biden waived executive privilege over them. The federal appeals court in Washington previously ruled the committee had a “uniquely vital interest” in the documents and Trump had “provided no basis” for it to override Biden and Congress.

The records include presidential diaries, visitor logs, speech drafts, handwritten notes “concerning the events of January 6” from the files of former chief of staff Mark Meadows, and “a draft Executive Order on the topic of election integrity,” according to a previous court filing from the National Archives.

Trump’s filing came on the day that an administrative injunction issued by the appeals court was set to otherwise expire. That injunction, preventing the release of records, will remain in place for now. Lawyers for the House committee asked the Supreme Court later Thursday to expedite its processes and consider the case as soon as mid-January.

“The Select Committee needs the requested documents now to help shape the direction of the investigation and allow the Select Committee to timely recommend remedial legislation,” lawyers for the committee wrote.

Repeating arguments they made before lower courts,

Trump’s attorneys wrote Thursday that the case concerned all future occupants of the White House.

Former presidents had “a clear right to protect their confidential records from premature dissemination,” Trump’s lawyers said.

The House committee has said the records are vital to its investigation into the run-up to the deadly insurrection aimed at overturning the results of the 2020 presidential election.

Belarus crackdown: Belarusian authorities labeled the local service of the U.S.-funded broadcaster Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty extremist, launched a criminal probe against one of its journalists and arrested another one Thursday.

It was the latest move in a monthslong, multi-pronged crackdown on the country’s independent media.

Belarus’ Interior Ministry added the outlet, known in the country as Radio Svaboda (Radio Freedom), and its journalists to the government registry of extremist organizations. Earlier this month, a court in the Belarusian capital Minsk ruled to designate the social media pages of Radio Svaboda as extremist.

Journalists and members of the public in Belarus may face up to seven years in prison for disseminating content produced by “extremist” outlets.

‘Unabomber’ moved: The man known as the “Unabomber” has been transferred to a federal prison medical facility in North Carolina after spending the past two decades in a federal Supermax prison in Colorado for a series of bombings targeting scientists.

Theodore “Ted” Kaczynski, 79, was moved to the FMC Butner medi-



Dressed as Santa Claus and atop a camel, Issa Kassissieh is seen Thursday outside Jerusalem’s Old City walls. Israel is considering whether to approve a fourth COVID-19 vaccine dose for vulnerable people to contain the omicron variant. That comes amid debate among scientists and a lack evidence either for or against another booster. ODED BALILTY/AP

cal center in North Carolina on Dec. 14, according to bureau spokesperson Donald Murphy. Murphy declined to disclose any details of Kaczynski’s medical condition or the reason for his transfer.

Kaczynski is serving life without the possibility of parole following his 1996 arrest at the primitive cabin where he was living in western Montana. He pleaded guilty to setting 16 explosions that killed three people and injured 23 others in various parts of the country between 1978 and 1995.

The Federal Medical Center Butner offers medical services for prisoners including oncology, surgery, neurodiagnostics and dialysis, according to the Bureau of Prisons. It opened an advanced care unit and a hospice unit in 2010.

Military discharges: The Marine Corps discharged 66 Marines in the past week for refusing to get the coronavi-

rus vaccine as mandated by the military, outpacing the other services at discipline related to the shots.

The latest Corps actions, which came as COVID-19 cases surged across the country as a result of the omicron variant, brought the total number of Marines booted out of the service for vaccine refusal to 169.

The Marine Corps has been the most aggressive in discharging troops who refuse the vaccine. And it also has denied all religious requests for exemptions that have been processed. As of Thursday, 3,080 of the 3,192 requests received — or more than 96% — have been processed and rejected. The Marine vaccination rate is the lowest among the services. The Army, Navy and Air Force all have nearly or more than 98% who have gotten at least one shot.

Monument removed: A monument at a Hong Kong university that was the best-

known public remembrance of the Tiananmen Square massacre on Chinese soil was removed early Thursday, wiping out the city’s last place of public commemoration of the bloody crackdown.

The 26-foot-tall Pillar of Shame, which depicts 50 torn and twisted bodies piled on top of each other, was made by Danish sculptor Jens Galschiot to symbolize the lives lost during the military crackdown on pro-democracy protesters in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square on June 4, 1989.

Each year on June 4, members of the now-defunct student union would wash the statue to commemorate the massacre.

The city, together with Macao, were the only places on Chinese soil where commemorations of the crackdown were allowed.

NYC bash still on: Revelers will still ring in the new year in New York’s Times Square next week, there just

won’t be as many of them as usual under new restrictions announced Thursday as the city grapples with a spike in COVID-19 cases.

Viewing areas that normally accommodate about 58,000 people will be limited to about 15,000 to allow for more distancing, and everyone in attendance must show proof of vaccination and wear a mask, Mayor Bill de Blasio said in a news release announcing the changes.

The added precautions for New Year’s Eve in Times Square were spurred by the rapid spread of the omicron variant in the Big Apple, where lines for testing have snaked around blocks in recent days.

On Wednesday, the city set yet another one-day testing record with 22,808 new cases, though a true comparison with the number of cases during the initial surge in spring 2020 is impossible because tests were very limited at the time.

ROOFING!



- ✓ ROOF REPLACEMENT
- ✓ ROOF REPAIR
- ✓ GUTTERS
- ✓ SKYLIGHTS
- ✓ DOWNSPOUTS



Klaus Larsen, CO-OWNER Klaus Larsen Roofing



Contact us for a FREE ESTIMATE

860-390-4602

FINANCING AVAILABLE

HIC-0646137

\$500 OFF

A COMPLETE KLAUS ROOFING SYSTEM.

Coupon to be presented and redeemed at time of estimate. Not valid for prior work or estimates given. Not valid with other offers. Some exclusions apply. Residential use only. Expiration 12/31/21.

LOCAL *Equals* FRESH SINCE 1923 **GEISSLER'S** SUPERMARKET LOCAL *Equals* FRESH

WISHING OUR COMMUNITY A SAFE & HAPPY NEW YEAR

THANK YOU TO OUR ALL OUR CUSTOMERS FOR MAKING GEISSLER'S YOUR CHOICE AND FOR ALL YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

Happy Holidays from the entire Geissler family

Additional Specials @Geisslers.com

Hartford Courant

CONNECTICUT

COURANT.COM/CONNECTICUT

Judge declines to block UHart’s DIII move

Ruling deals setback to student athletes trying to stop downgrade

By Edmund H. Mahony
Hartford Courant

A federal court has dismissed almost all claims of fraud and misrepresentation against the University of Hartford by student athletes suing to block the school’s decision to downgrade from Division I to Division III athletics, and left the students only faint hope that they might try again to stop

the move in the future. In two decisions made public Thursday, U.S. District Judge Michael P. Shea said the student athletes demonstrated that their college experiences and athletic ambitions are harmed by the decision to compete in lower tier athletics. But Shea said the students largely failed to support claims that they agreed to enroll in the school based on fraudulent promises and misrepresentations about competing for at least four years at a Division I level. “I disagree with (the university) and find that (student athletes)

have alleged sufficiently that the University’s decision to transition to Division III will impact their Division I experience, resulting in concrete and particularized injuries,” Shea wrote. But, he said, “I find the (student suit) fails to allege that any statements made to the Plaintiffs were known to be untrue when made.” Shea made one exception, allowing Malcom Bell, a senior and partial scholarship lacrosse player recruited by five schools, to continue pressing the suit on the sole claim that he enrolled based on the university’s “negligent

admissions and breach of contract” over promises to remain a Division I school for athletics. In addition to seeking monetary damages, the 10 student athletes asked Shea to block the transfer to Division III. Shea declined, saying that the student suit failed to show the likelihood of success required for such a ruling. The students can renew the request if Bell continues to press the suit and if that produces new evidence. “This case is a reminder that a college coach’s recruiting pitch to a talented high school athlete provides no guarantee that her

dreams of glory will be realized,” Shea wrote. Attorneys for the students and the school declined to discuss the decision. The school applauded it. “We are very pleased with the court’s ruling; it clearly supports our position from the beginning of this case,” said Molly Polk, Vice President for Marketing and Enrollment. “The University of Hartford, like any private institution, has a duty and a right to make decisions that are in the best long-term interest of the school

Turn to UHart, Page 8



A photo provided by Pfizer shows Paxlovid, Pfizer’s COVID-19 treatment pill, being produced in a laboratory in Freiburg, Germany. The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday authorized Paxlovid, the first pill developed by Pfizer for COVID-19, offering a highly effective defense against severe illness that will arrive as the country endures another major surge of the pandemic. **THE NEW YORK TIMES**

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Groton scientists played a critical role in new pill

Team at Pfizer facility were key part of effort to design Paxlovid

By Rick Green
Hartford Courant

In the race among pharmaceutical giants to create the first pill to ward off the COVID-19 virus, a team of researchers at Pfizer in Groton played a critical role. The Pfizer scientists helped bring the new drug, Paxlovid, to market, from initial discovery efforts to the submission to the U.S. Food & Drug Administration for emergency use authorization. “Our colleagues in Groton were part of the team who designed nirmatrelvir [one of the drugs in

Paxlovid]. ... They then performed the necessary chemistry, drug metabolism, formulation, and safety assessment work to transform the molecule into a novel investigational oral antiviral,” said Steve Danehy, director of Global Media Relations for Pfizer, in a statement. “The scientists first made the molecule and analyzed the initial studies to determine its potency and how the compound is processed by the human body,” Danehy said. “We also manufactured the first tablets for clinical trial supply in the solid dose clinical manufacturing facility in Groton, Connecticut. The clinical research unit in New Haven conducted the first-in-human studies for the candidate and all drug interaction

studies.” Pfizer has nearly 5,300 employees at its Groton facility. On Thursday, the FDA authorized a second pill against COVID-19, providing another easy-to-use medication to battle the rising tide of omicron infections. The Food and Drug Administration authorization of Merck’s molnupiravir comes one day after the agency cleared the new Pfizer pill. Both treatments will be free to patients in the U.S. after being purchased by the federal government. Federal health officials are expected to ration early shipments to the hardest-hit parts of the country. Pfizer said the small supply is due to the manufacturing time — currently about nine

months. The company says it can halve production time next year. The U.S. government has agreed to purchase enough Paxlovid to treat 10 million people. Pfizer says it’s on track to produce 80 million courses globally next year, under contracts with the U.K., Australia and other nations. Pfizer’s Paxlovid is likely to become the first-choice treatment against the virus, thanks to its superior benefits and milder side effects. The new Pfizer pill is the “first treatment for COVID-19 that is in the form of a pill that is taken orally — a major step forward in the fight against this global pandemic,” said Patrizia Cavazzoni, M.D., director of the FDA’s

Turn to Pfizer, Page 8

Stamford man pleads not guilty to child sex charge

Ex-CNN TV producer appears in federal court

Associated Press

A television producer has pleaded not guilty to charges in connection with paying a Nevada woman to bring her 9-year-old daughter to Vermont to engage in illegal sexual activity at a ski house. John Griffin, 44, of Stamford, appeared in federal court in Burlington on Wednesday to plead not guilty to three counts of enticement. Court records say Griffin did not oppose a request by prosecutors that he be detained. The detention request said Griffin is, “charged with a crime involving the sexual assault of a nine-year old child that carries a 10-year mandatory minimum sentence upon conviction.” In court documents, prosecutors described Griffin as a wealthy man who “has tried to deceive, delete, and spend his way out of being held accountable.” The documents also say Griffin also has a history of mental illness and substance abuse.



Griffin

A CNN spokesman said last week that Griffin was fired soon after his arrest. Griffin worked for former CNN anchor Chris Cuomo and was most recently working on the morning show and producing the Reality Check segment. On Dec. 11, the day after Griffin’s arrest, CNN reported that he had worked at the network for about eight years. According to VT Digger, Prosecutors are seeking to seize several assets from him, including his Tesla and Mercedes-Benz vehicles, as well as forfeiture of the Ludlow, Vermont, ski house Griffin purchased almost two years ago for \$1.8 million. On Dec. 9, a Vermont grand jury handed down a three-count indictment against Griffin. He was arrested in Connecticut on Dec. 10. Griffin’s Vermont attorney David Kirby declined to comment on Wednesday. A motion for detention filed by prosecutors ahead of Wednesday’s arraignment says that in a Sept. 2, 2020, interview with FBI agents, Griffin said he met the 9-year-old’s mother on a sex-themed website. He said he paid for the woman and her daughter to fly to Boston in July 2020. He picked them up at the airport and drove them to his Ludlow ski house. He admitted to witnessing the child perform sex acts with her mother. Griffin said the activity was the mother’s idea, but that was contradicted by the contents of Griffin’s chat communications with the girl’s mother and other parents of minor girls that were discovered later, the court documents say. The girl told investigators that Griffin sexually assaulted her while she was in Vermont and addressed her using derogatory terms, the court documents say. Griffin also apparently attempted to “pay off” a potential witness, another relative of the 9-year-old girl, by making an electronic transfer to that relative of \$4,000, the motion for detention says.

Ukrainian Diocese settles sexual abuse case involving former Terryville priest

Victim was 12 when alleged abuse started in Plymouth in 1980s

By Jesse Leavenworth
Hartford Courant

The Ukrainian Catholic Diocese of Stamford has settled allegations of sexual abuse by a former priest for \$450,000. The Rev. Joseph Shaloka, who died in 1990, was pastor at St. Michael Ukrainian Catholic Church in the Terryville section of Plymouth when the abuse occurred, attorney Nate Baber of Aeton Law Partners said Thursday.

A representative of the diocese could not be reached. His client was 12 years old when Shaloka started sexually abusing him in the rectory next to the church on Allen Street, and the abuse continued for about five years, Baber said. The alleged victim, now age 51, did not complain about the abuse at the time because he considered Shaloka a father figure and did not see the abuse as abnormal, Baber said. He said his client was not a member of St. Michael, but had been introduced to Shaloka by a friend who thought the priest could offer him guidance. Shaloka was appointed to St. Michael in 1968 after serving at a church in Syracuse, New

York, according to an article in the Courant from that time. Shaloka had been active in youth programs in Syracuse, according to the Courant article. Baber said he was not aware of any formal complaints against Shaloka from other parishes, but learned through his investigation that there are credible claims of abuse in Syracuse. Shaloka told the victim in Terryville to never speak of the abuse, Baber said, but after Shaloka died, the young man began to realize that what he had considered a paternal relationship was actually abusive and harmful. The years of abuse affected the man’s physical health and relationships, Baber said. His

life has been troubled, including substance abuse and run-ins with the law that have hurt his career prospects, Baber said. Shaloka’s obituary in the Post-Standard newspaper of Syracuse says he died on Feb. 28, 1990 in Philadelphia. He was a native of Marion Heights, Pennsylvania, and attended Bloomsburg State Teachers College and later Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., where he completed his theological studies. Shaloka retired in October 1989, according to the obituary. He was survived by two sisters.

Jesse Leavenworth can be reached at jleavenworth@courant.com

CONNECTICUT

UHart

from Page 7

and the entire University community. The Division III intercollegiate athletics model better aligns with the University’s mission and goals of creating exceptional academic, athletic, co-curricular, and wellness experiences for all students. We look forward to submitting our NCAA transition application early in the new year.”

The NCAA separates intercollegiate athletics into three divisions to allow schools with similar student bodies and athletic ambitions to compete among themselves. Division I schools provide athletic scholarships and grants-in-aid to student athletes, have the largest student bodies and compete at the highest athletic levels. Division III schools do not provide athletic scholarships and educational grants-in-aid.

The University’s athletic program has had little success in Division I and had become a financial liability in the view of the administration. The decision to change divisions followed years of study.

University president Gregory S. Woodward, trying to control costs, was considering the downgrade before he officially became president, according to the decisions. A reassessment of athletics was underway, even as the school’s athletic department was pitching prospective recruits on the benefits of competing at a



University of Hartford’s Briggs McClain, one of the students suing to block the school’s move to Division III athletics, drives to the basket as Boston University’s Garrett Pascoe defends during the second half of a game in November.

JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Division I school.

Two months before he took office on July 1, 2017, Woodward emailed basketball coach John Gallagher, bemoaning what he described as the school’s lackluster athletic prowess, according to court filings.

He wrote, among other things, that athletics was “not a pretty picture,” with “some teams that weren’t just bad, but horrible.” He said he intended to “rethink what we are doing” and “either we make it better, and fast, or we make another plan,” he wrote, according to court filings.

Woodward created a task force in late 2019, to look at the future of athletics, review continued Division I membership and focus on reducing costs. By early 2021, a private consultant told Woodward that the school’s continued membership in Division I is not “realistic” or “sustainable” and it should explore

joining Division III.

Shea said the transition to Division III, which will begin in January, will cost the student athletes opportunities to compete at the highest levels, as well as Division I financial aide.

The University began competing as a Division I school in 1984 and in the America East Conference in 1985. It has been forced out of the conference because of the downgrade. Until now, the school had 17 interscholastic Division I sports. It provided \$6.5 million in financial aid to student athletes in 2019, \$6.8 million in 2020 and is expected to pay nearly \$6.8 million this year, according to court filings.

The university has produced 14 professional athletes, including Major League Baseball All-Star Jeff Bagwell, National Basketball Association All-Star Vin Baker, and two-time PGA Tour winner Jerry Kelly.

progression to severe COVID-19.”

Pfizer CEO Albert Bourla said the new drug is more evidence of how science is fighting the pandemic.

“This breakthrough therapy, which has been shown to significantly reduce hospitalizations and deaths and can be taken at home, will change the way we treat COVID-19, and hopefully help reduce some

of the significant pressures facing our health care and hospital systems,” Bourla said in a news release. “Pfizer stands ready to begin delivery in the U.S. immediately to help get Paxlovid into the hands of appropriate patients as quickly as possible.”

A report from Associated Press is included in this story.

State high court orders new congressional map

Parameters call for boundaries to disregard politics

By Mark Pazniokas
CT Mirror

Nathaniel Persily, the political scientist and law professor who revised Connecticut’s congressional map 10 years ago, was hired Thursday by the state Supreme Court to do the job again.

With an impasse declared only two days ago by the Reapportionment Commission, the court moved quickly to hire Persily, outline parameters for a new map and set a deadline of Jan. 18.

The court ordered him to both respect the existing districts yet ignore the political considerations that led to the impasse by the legislature’s bipartisan Reapportionment Commission.

“In drafting his plan, Special Master Persily shall not consider either residency of incumbents or potential candidates or other political data, such as party registration statistics or election returns,” the court said.

The all-Democratic congressional delegation refused to informally endorse districts proposed by Democrats on the commission, gambling that the court’s plan would better preserve the status quo.

The commission did not need their consent as a matter of law or constitution, but the absence of an endorsement prompted the commissioners to yield to the court.

The court states it will do what the commission refused: Once a plan is drafted and made public no later than Jan. 18, interested parties may suggest changes until Jan. 24.

On Jan. 27, the justices will hold a public hearing. Their deadline for adoption is Feb. 15.

The process poses a potential challenge to the

congressional Democrats: If they wish to be heard, it must be in a public communication to the court, not confidential conversations with the commission.

That means the members of Congress either must agree behind the scenes on a unified recommendation to the court or be willing to fight openly for an advantage in the new district lines.

By most assessments, all five districts currently favor Democrats, though the 2nd and the 5th are competitive, if leaning Democratic.

Elements of the 2nd, which covers rural and suburban eastern Connecticut, have been trending Republican over the past decade. The 5th of western Connecticut has been relatively stable.

Persily is widely regarded as an expert in redistricting, having worked as a court-appointed special master in Connecticut, Georgia, Maryland, New York, North Carolina and Pennsylvania. He is a professor of political science and law at Stamford after previously teaching at Columbia and the University of Pennsylvania.

He also served as the senior research director for the Presidential Commission on Election Administration.

Only six of the seven justices on Connecticut’s high court will participate. Justice Christine E. Keller, the mother of a commission member, House Speaker Matt Ritter, D-Hartford, has recused herself.

The court has had oversight over the congressional map since the commission missed a constitutional deadline of Nov. 30, but it essentially had agreed to defer to the commission until Dec. 21.

The awkward shape of the current map was set 20 years ago when Connecticut lost one of its six seats, and two incumbents, a Democrat from Danbury and a Republican from New Britain, had to face off in the redrawn 5th District.

Republicans won three of the five seats in 2002 and 2004 but none since 2008. Ten years ago, reasoning that the map essentially was fair, the court directed Persily to take a light hand in his revisions.

This year, the court is both directing him to ignore politics yet make only the changes necessary to produce a constitutionally acceptable plan.

“In developing a plan,” the court said, “Special Master Persily shall modify the existing congressional districts only to the extent reasonably required to comply with the following applicable legal requirements:

“Districts shall be as equal in population as practicable; Districts shall be made of contiguous territory; The plan shall comply with the Voting Rights Act of 1965 ... and any other applicable federal law.”

The court also directed Persily to draw compact districts — or at least not ones with greater sprawl than today.

“In no event shall the plan be substantially less compact than the existing congressional districts, and in no event shall the plan substantially violate town lines more than the existing congressional districts,” the court said.

Connecticut grew by nearly 32,000 people in the past decade, mostly in Fairfield County, Hartford, as well as rural communities in eastern Connecticut, lost population.

The 2nd District needs to pick up another 21,288 residents, while the 4th District of lower Fairfield County needs to get more geographically compact and shed 25,627.

The population deviations are smaller in the other districts: the 1st and 3rd are under by 3,535 and 5,829, respectively, while the 5th is over by 5,024.

Since the overpopulated 4th and underpopulated 2nd share no border, changes will have to ripple across the map.

We can help you stop drafts and boost the curb appeal of your home with a new Entry Door!

60% OFF ENTRY DOOR INSTALLATION

NOW UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2021!





AWS
Advanced Window Systems, LLC
Windows • Siding • Roofing • Doors

CALL TODAY! 860-362-2432

Connecticut Registration #0556507 Massachusetts Registration #176974 Licensed and Fully Insured. Offer Valid 12/1/21-12/31/21.
*This ad supersedes all others. *Some restrictions may apply. *Offers cannot be combined.

BUSINESS

COURANT.COM/BUSINESS

US awards over \$241M in grants to bolster ports

Transportation funds to rise to \$450M annually for 5 years starting in 2022

By Hope Yen
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg is awarding more than \$241 million in grants to bolster U.S. ports, part of the Biden administration's near-term plan to address America's clogged supply chain with infrastructure improvements to speed the flow of goods. The transportation money is being made available immediately to 25 projects in 19 states. Next year, the amount of money for port improvements will nearly double to \$450 million in grants annually for five years under President Joe Biden's new infrastructure law. "These investments in our nation's ports will help support American jobs, efficient and resilient operations and faster delivery of goods to the American people," Buttigieg said Thursday. Biden on Wednesday touted the coming grants as one of a series of efforts that will alleviate supply bottlenecks over the short and long term.

"Earlier this fall we heard a lot of dire warnings about supply chain problems leading to a crisis around the holidays, so we acted," Biden said. The grant money includes \$52.3 million to help boost rail capacity at the port in Long Beach, California, with a new locomotive facility, 10,000-foot support track and extensions of five existing tracks to speed up freight movement while cutting down the number of truck trips required to do that. Other recipients include: ■ Portsmouth, Virginia, \$20 million, to help build out a supply chain for the offshore wind industry. ■ Brunswick, Georgia, \$14.6 million, to build a fourth berth for cargo ships at Colonel's Island Terminal. ■ Houston, \$18.3 million, to facilitate more export and import cargo by significantly boosting storage capacity at the Bayport Container Terminal. ■ Tell City, Indiana, \$1.6 million, to construct a 40-foot diameter pier on the Ohio River that can be used direct

barge-to-truck unloading of cargo. Delcambre, Louisiana, \$2 million, for dock restoration and climate resiliency. In recent months, higher prices have eaten into wages and turned public sentiment on the economy against Biden in polls. One of the obstacles for reducing inflation amid the coronavirus pandemic has been backlogged ports with ships waiting to dock at major transit hubs, causing shortages and leaving some store shelves depleted. Buttigieg's announcement seeks to build upon recent moves by the Transportation Department to reduce supply chain congestion, such as by allowing port authorities to redirect leftover money from grant projects. For example, the Georgia Ports Authority is using \$8 million to convert its inland facilities for the port of Savannah into container yards, freeing up dock space and speeding the flow of goods to their final destinations. Buttigieg recently toured the port, which his department says has seen the number of ships waiting at anchor fall from over 30 to six last week, while long dwelling containers have been cut in half.

Consumer prices rise fastest pace in 39 years

By Martin Crutsinger
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — U.S. consumer prices rose 5.7% over the past year, the fastest pace in 39 years, as a surge in inflation confronts Americans with the holiday shopping season underway. The November increase, reported Thursday by the Commerce Department, followed a 5.1% rise for the 12 months ending in October, continuing a string of annual price gains that have run well above the 2% inflation target set by the Federal Reserve. Consumer spending, which accounts for 70% of U.S. economic activity, rose 0.6% in November, a solid gain but below the 1.4% surge in October. Personal incomes, which provide the fuel for future spending increases, rose 0.4% in November, slightly lower than the 0.5% increase in October. Both gains came after a 1% plunge in incomes in September, the month that government benefit programs such as expanded unemployment benefits came to an end. The big jump in the Commerce Department's price gauge was similar to the rise in the consumer price index, up 6.8% for the 12 months ending in November, also the biggest surge by this measurement in 39 years. While the CPI is the better known price gauge, the Federal Reserve prefers to follow the Commerce Department's personal consumption expenditures price index in setting its interest-rate policies to fight inflation. The PCE price index tracks the actual purchases consumers are making each month while the CPI follows a fixed market basket of goods. The 5.7% increase for overall inflation was the fastest 12-month gain since a 5.8% increase for the 12 months ending in July 1982.



Anna Layza makes a TikTok video at her home in Melbourne, Florida. Brands are flocking to the platform like never before, drawn by its more than 1 billion users and its algorithm, which can make an ad seem like just another video. TODD ANDERSON/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Cute TikTok video? It's an ad.

Major brands are flocking to the platform with its audience of more than 1 billion users

By Sapna Maheshwari
The New York Times

Ever since young Americans began their exodus from commercial television to streaming services and social media, advertisers have searched for the digital equivalent of home shopping channels, a place online where users might engage with ads rather than just quickly clicking past them. Now, they think they are closer to finding this holy grail of marketing and it doesn't look anything like QVC. Welcome to the holiday shopping season on TikTok, where retailers are present like never before, their authentic-seeming advertisements dropped in between dances, confessionals and makeovers. Young men and women showcase shimmering American Eagle tops as pulsating music plays in videos designed to look as if they were filmed in the 1990s. A woman in a unicorn onesie retrieves a specific brand of cookies at Target to the tune of "Jingle Bell Rock." A home chef mixes and bakes

cinnamon-apple cakes from Walmart in 30 seconds, displaying a bag from the retailer. This kind of advertising presence would have been unfathomable for retailers last year, when President Donald Trump was threatening to ban TikTok because of its Chinese parent company and marketers were still struggling to figure out how to best reach the platform's users. But President Joe Biden revoked the executive order in June, and TikTok crossed 1 billion monthly users in September. As a result, a regular stream of products, from leggings to carpet cleaners, have gone viral on the platform this year, often accompanied by the hashtag #TikTokMadeMeBuyIt, which has been viewed more than 7 billion times. TikTok has been working to make the platform more lucrative for marketers and the creators they work with. And TikTok's popularity with Generation Z and millennials, who are lured by its addictive algorithm and its setup as an entertainment destination versus a social network, has made the appeal undeniable for retailers. Since August, at least 18 public retail brands, in apparel, footwear, makeup and accessories, have referred to their efforts on TikTok on calls with analysts and investors. Competitors have also taken notice. Insta-

gram has developed a TikTok-like feature called Reels and has been working to lure creators. One of those benefiting is Maddison Peel, a 22-year-old in Hebron, Kentucky, who posts cooking videos to her account with more than 300,000 followers. She gained a large following this year after a clip she made featuring a roasted chicken and a Cardi B song took off. Since then, she has worked with brands and retailers like Heinz, Kroger and Walmart, earning \$5,000 to \$10,000 a month. The payments enabled her to quit her job at McDonald's, where she had been earning "not even \$1,000 every two weeks," she said. Anna Layza, 31, of Melbourne, Florida, has more than 1 million followers on TikTok, and recently posted an ad that involved wearing a unicorn onesie and retrieving a box of cookies at Target. But she said she had mostly been posting on Reels these days, which recently started paying her for views on many videos. "TikTok doesn't pay you to post unless you have a brand that wants to be in the video," Layza said. "But Instagram is actually paying you and giving you a bonus when you reach a certain amount of views."

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Amazon workers free to organize

NEW YORK — Amazon, under pressure to improve worker rights, reached a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board to allow its workers to freely organize — and without retaliation. According to the agreement, Amazon said it would reach out to former and current warehouse workers via email who were on the job anytime from March 22 to now to notify them of their organizing rights. The settlement outlines that Amazon workers, which number 750,000 in the U.S., have more room to organize within the buildings. Amazon said it won't threaten workers with discipline or call the police when they're engaging in union activity in exterior non-work areas during non-work time.

Intel apologizes for supply letter

BEIJING — Intel Corp. apologized Thursday for asking suppliers to avoid sourcing goods from Xinjiang after the world's biggest chipmaker joined other foreign brands that face the fury of state media over complaints of abuses by the ruling Communist Party in the mostly Muslim region. Intel's request was "arrogant and vicious," said Global Times, a newspaper published by the ruling party. The reference to Xinjiang in a letter to suppliers was aimed at complying with U.S. regulations, Intel said on its social media account. Washington has barred imports of goods from Xinjiang over complaints of mass detentions, forced abortions and forced labor, which Beijing denies.

Record number of Americans sign up for ACA

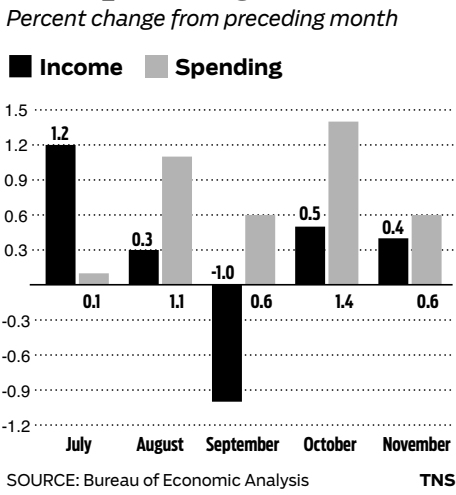
By Margot Sanger-Katz
The New York Times

A record number of Americans — 13.6 million — have signed up for health plans through the Affordable Care Act's marketplaces for 2022, after Congress lowered the cost of so-called Obamacare insurance, the Biden administration boosted advertising and the pandemic disrupted many Americans' employer-provided coverage. The COVID-19 public health emergency helped usher in an era of greater generosity and expanded outreach to the uninsured that many of Obamacare's original authors had long called for. The increased enrollment, covering at least 2 million more Americans than in any

previous year, was particularly pronounced in red states like Georgia and Texas that have high rates of uninsurance and declined to expand Medicaid to cover their poorest adults. The Biden administration has invested heavily in promoting the availability of insurance subsidies under the ACA. It also quadrupled the network of professionals available to help people enroll. But Chiquita Brooks-LaSure, administrator for the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, which manages the marketplaces, said she thinks the main driver of the enrollment increase was the lower prices most Americans would pay. A stimulus bill passed by Congress in March made many more Americans eligible for financial assistance in buying ACA

plans. For most people with low incomes, comprehensive coverage is available for no premium. Middle-class people earning higher incomes became eligible for subsidies for the first time. Taken together, the policies have represented an expansion and a reimagining of the ACA. The enrollment numbers suggest that these changes have substantially increased enrollment in the program. The enhanced subsidies, however, are scheduled to expire at the end of 2022. Democrats in Congress hope to extend them as part of their large social spending and climate bill, but that legislation is stalled in the Senate. Enrollment remains open until Jan. 15 in most states for coverage that would begin in February.

Personal income and spending



BUSINESS



Vince Patton plays video games displayed on the center screen of his Tesla automobile while driving this month on a closed course in Portland, Oregon. GILLIAN FLACCUS/AP

Tesla update blocks games from screens in moving cars

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — Under pressure from U.S. auto safety regulators, Tesla has agreed to stop allowing video games to be played on center touch screens while its vehicles are moving.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says the company will send out a software update over the Internet so the function called “Passenger Play” will be locked and won’t work while vehicles are in motion.

The move comes one day after the agency announced it would open a formal investigation into distracted driving concerns about Tesla’s video games, some of which could be played while cars are being driven.

An agency spokeswoman said in a statement Thursday that the change came after regulators discussed concerns about the system with Tesla. The first update went out Wednesday as part of Tesla’s holiday software release, and the rest of the vehicles should get it by Friday.

The statement says

NHTSA regularly talks about infotainment screens with all automakers. A message was left Thursday seeking comment from Tesla, which has disbanded its media relations department.

The agency said its investigation of Tesla’s feature will continue even with the update. It was not clear whether NHTSA would require Tesla to do a formal recall with the update. In the past the agency has asked Tesla why it should not be required to do recalls with safety-related software updates.

“The Vehicle Safety Act prohibits manufacturers from selling vehicles with defects posing unreasonable risks to safety, including technologies that distract drivers from driving safely,” NHTSA’s statement said.

The agency said it assesses how manufacturers identify and guard against distraction hazards due to misuse or intended use of screens and other convenience technology.

The agency announced Wednesday that it would formally investigate Tesla’s

screens after an owner from the Portland, Oregon, area filed a complaint when he discovered that a driver could play games while the cars are moving.

The agency said that the “Passenger Play” feature could distract the driver and increase the risk of a crash.

The probe covers about 580,000 Tesla Models S, X, Y and 3 from the 2017 through 2022 model years.

In documents detailing the investigation, NHTSA said “Passenger Play” has been available since December 2020. Before that, enabling gameplay was only possible when its vehicles were in park.

The NHTSA documents do not list any crashes or injuries caused by the problem.

Tesla owner Vince Patton, 59, filed the complaint last month after discovering the gaming feature could be played by drivers. Patton, who said he loves his car and that he has nothing against Tesla, worries that drivers will play games and become dangerously distracted. “Somebody’s going to get killed,” he said. “It’s absolutely insane.”

Execs exiting cushy tech jobs for the call of cryptocurrency

By Daisuke Wakabayashi and Mike Isaac
The New York Times

OAKLAND, Calif. — When Sandy Carter left her job as a vice president of Amazon’s cloud computing unit this month, she announced in a LinkedIn post that she was joining a crypto technology company. She included a link for open positions at the startup.

Within two days, she said, more than 350 people — many from the biggest internet companies — had clicked the link to apply for jobs at the firm, Unstoppable Domains. The startup sells website addresses that sit on the blockchain, the distributed ledger system that underpins cryptocurrencies.

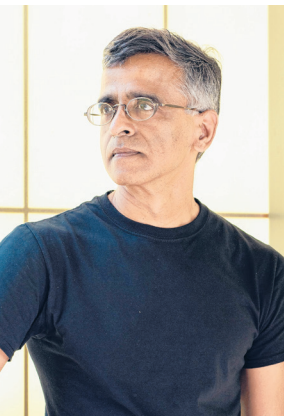
“It’s the perfect storm,” Carter said. “The momentum we’re seeing in this space is just incredible.”

Carter is part of a wave of executives and engineers leaving cushy jobs at Google, Amazon, Apple and other large tech companies — some of which pay millions of dollars in annual compensation — to chase what they see as a once-in-a-generation opportunity.

That next big thing is crypto, they said, a catch-all designation that includes digital currencies like Bitcoin and products like nonfungible tokens, or NFTs, which rely on the blockchain.

Silicon Valley is now awash with stories of people riding seemingly ridiculous crypto investments like Dogecoin, a digital coin based on a dog meme, to life-changing wealth. Bitcoin has soared around 60% this year, while Ether, the cryptocurrency tied to the Ethereum blockchain, has increased more than fivefold in value.

But beyond that speculative mania, a growing contingent of the tech industry’s best and brightest sees



Sridhar Ramaswamy was once an executive at Big Tech titan Google. JESSICA CHOU/THE NEW YORK TIMES

a transformational moment that comes along once every few decades and rewards those who spot the seismic shift before the rest of the world. With crypto, they see historical parallels to how the personal computer and the internet were once ridiculed, only to upend the status quo and mint a new generation of billionaires.

Investors, too, have flooded in. They have poured more than \$28 billion into global crypto and blockchain startups this year, four times the total in 2020, according to PitchBook, a firm that tracks private investments. More than \$3 billion has gone into NFT companies alone.

“There is a giant sucking sound coming from crypto,” said Sridhar Ramaswamy, CEO of search engine startup Neeva and a former Google executive, who competes with crypto companies for talent. “It feels a bit like the 1990s and the birth of the internet all over again. It’s that early, that chaotic and that much full of opportunity.”

Crypto, which has also been rebranded as the less foreboding web3, may be no different from past speculative bubbles like subprime mortgages or the tulip craze of the 17th century, skeptics

said. Much of the mania, they said, was being driven by a desire to get rich quick by trading an asset class that often seemed based on internet jokes.

But the growing ranks of true believers said crypto can change the world by creating a more decentralized internet that is not controlled by a handful of companies. While such possibilities have existed since Bitcoin emerged in 2009, crypto products such as NFTs only broke through to the mainstream this year. That has accelerated the exodus from Big Tech companies.

Some of the brain drain into crypto has also been spurred by worries about the control and dominance of the biggest tech companies by their own employees. Many had joined Google, Facebook and others to create something new, only to encounter bureaucracy and the backlash of working at the behemoths.




Those leaving behind a Big Tech salary do not have to wait as long for a payoff at a crypto startup as those at traditional tech startups.

While employees generally accept a smaller salary at tech startups in the hope that the company’s stock will hit it big one day, workers at crypto startups are provided “liquidity,” or the ability to cash out their shares, much earlier. Often, they can do so in the form of trading their company’s cryptocurrencies, according to Dan McCarthy, a recruiter for investment firm Paradigm who has written on the potential upsides of crypto startups for tech workers.

In some cases, crypto startups offer compensation packages on par with the biggest tech firms because of how easily employees can convert their company’s “tokens” — or the underlying cryptocurrency backing the startup — into cash.

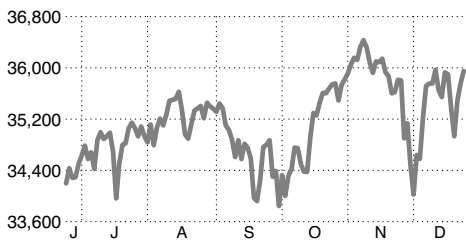
MARKET RUNDOWN

Friday, December 24, 2021

 DOW 35,950.56 +196.67	 10-YR T-BOND 1.49% +.03	 GOLD \$1,811.20 +9.60
---	---	---



Dow Jones Industrials
Close: 35,950.56
Change: 196.67 (0.6%)



	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD
DOW Indus.	35,950.56	+196.67	+17.46%
DOW Trans.	16,186.96	+225.22	+29.42%
DOW Util.	955.77	-.61	+10.54%
NYSE Comp.	16,963.44	+88.56	+16.79%
Nasdaq Comp.	15,653.37	+131.48	+21.45%
S&P 500	4,725.79	+29.23	+25.82%
S&P 400	2,795.82	+19.26	+21.21%
Wilshire 5000	48,171.11	+326.58	+22.09%
Russell 2000	2,241.58	+19.68	+13.51%


Commodities			
	CLOSE	PREV.	YTD
FUELS			
Crude Oil (bbl)	73.79	72.76	+52.08%
Natural Gas (mm btu)	3.73	3.98	+46.95%
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.21	2.17	+54.94%
METALS			
Gold (oz)	1,811.20	1,801.60	-4.33%
Silver (oz)	22.93	22.79	-12.92%

(Previous and change figures reflect current contract.)

Foreign Exchange			Money Rates		
	ForEx in U.S. \$	U.S. \$ in ForEx		CLOSE	PREV. WK.
Britain	1.3419	.7452	Prime rate	3.25	3.25
Canada	.7806	1.2811	3-mo. T-Bill	0.08	0.05
China	1.570	6.3703	6-mo. T-Bill	0.18	0.13
Euro	1.1334	.8823	5-yr T-Note	1.25	1.18
Japan	.008737	114.46	10-yr T-Note	1.49	1.40
Mexico	.048478	20.6279	30-yr T-Bond	1.90	1.82

Global Markets			
	CLOSE	CHG.	%CHG. %YTD
Frankfurt	15,756.31	+162.84	+1.04% +14.85%
London	7,373.34	+31.68	+4.3% +14.13%
Hong Kong	23,193.64	+91.31	+4.0% -14.83%
Nikkei	28,798.37	+236.16	+8.3% +4.93%

Stocks of Local Interest			
STOCK (TICKER)	CLOSE	CHG.	YTD %CHG
AMC Entertainment A (AMC)	28.52	-.16	+1245.3
AT&T Inc (T)	24.87	+.09	-13.5
ADITx Inc (ADTX)	.71	+.06	-65.9
Adv Micro Dev (AMD)	146.14	+2.26	+59.4
Allakos Inc (ALLK)	10.45	+1.90	-92.5
American Airlines Gp (AAL)	18.26	...	+15.8
Amer Virtual Cloud (AVCT)	1.90	-.60	-73.6
Amphenol Corp (APH)	85.06	+1.07	...
Apple Inc (AAPL)	176.28	+.64	+32.9
Avangrid Inc (AGR)	48.82	+.46	+7.4
Bank of America (BAC)	44.42	+.14	+46.6
Barnes Group (B)	46.27	+.39	-.8
Biofrontera Inc (BFRI)	13.17	+2.67	+198.6
Booking Holdings (BKNG)	2402.25	+17.07	+7.9
Brist Myr Sqb (BMY)	62.05	-.05	...
CVS Health Corp (CVS)	101.31	+.41	+48.3
Carnival Corp (CCL)	21.20	-.30	-2.1
Carrier Global Corp (CARR)	52.82	+.05	+40.0
Charter Commun (CHTR)	648.30	+8.51	-2.0
Cigna Corp (CI)	225.89	+3.56	+8.5
Cisco Syst (CSCO)	62.28	+.75	+39.2
Comcast Corp A (CMCSA)	50.03	+1.00	-4.5
ContextLogic Inc (WISH)	3.58	+.10	-80.4
Disney (DIS)	153.63	+1.75	-15.2
EMCOR Group Inc (EME)	125.55	+1.09	+37.3
Ensysce Biosciences (ENSC)	5.12	+.28	-64.4
Ethan Allen (ETD)	25.45	+.26	+25.9
Eversource Energy (ES)	89.44	+.09	+3.4
Ford Motor (F)	20.25	+.11	+130.4
Freeport McMoran (FCX)	41.13	+.99	+58.1
FuelCell Energy (FCEL)	6.46	+.06	-42.2
Gen Dynamics (GD)	204.69	+.93	+37.5
Gen Electric (GE)	94.00	+.93	+9.0
Hartford Fh Sv (HIG)	68.27	+.64	+39.4
Honeywell Intl (HON)	205.22	+3.38	-3.5
Horizon Tech Fin (HRZN)	15.75	+.08	+19.0
Ideanomics Inc (IDEX)	1.28	-.08	-35.7
Infosys Ltd (INFY)	24.73	+.20	+45.9
Intel Corp (INTC)	51.31	+.34	+3.0
Kaixin Auto Holdg (KXIN)	1.39	-.02	-62.7
Kaman (KAMN)	42.63	+.60	-25.4
Keycorp (KEY)	22.74	+.08	+38.6
Lincoln Natl Corp (LNC)	67.87	+1.57	+34.9
Lucid Group Inc (LCID)	37.64	-1.06	+40.3
MGM Resorts Intl (MGM)	45.74	+.46	+45.2
Magellan Health Inc (MGLN)	94.78	+.09	+14.4
Meten Holding Group (METX)	.26	+.00	-86.8
MetLife Inc (MET)	61.78	+.90	+31.6
Micron Tech (MU)	94.42	+.408	+25.6
Microsoft Corp (MSFT)	334.69	+1.49	+50.5
Nikola Corp (NKLA)	11.09	+1.69	-27.3
Norwegian Cruise Ln (NCLH)	22.72	+.10	-10.7
Novartis AG (NVS)	86.66	+.35	-8.2
Nvidia Corporation (NVDA)	296.40	+2.40	+127.0
Ortho Clinical Diagn (OCDX)	21.16	+1.37	+31.4
Otis Worldwide Corp (OTIS)	85.25	+.94	+26.2
Palantir Technol (PLTR)	18.93	+.05	-19.6
Pasithea Therapeutic (KTAA)	2.01	+.54	-43.5
Peoples Utd Fncl (PBCT)	17.45	+.23	+35.0
Pfizer Inc (PFE)	58.71	-.84	+59.5
Pitney Bowes (PBI)	6.68	+.12	+8.4
Prudential Fncl (PRU)	108.25	+1.34	+38.7
Pub Svc Ent Gp (PEG)	64.58	-.02	+10.8
Qualigen Therapeut (QLGN)	1.29	+.29	-57.1
Raytheon Technolog (RTX)	84.90	+.83	+18.7
Rogers Corp (ROG)	272.70	-.68	+75.6
SS&C Technologies (SSNC)	81.66	+.26	+12.2
SeaChange Intl Inc (SEAC)	1.83	-.13	+30.7
Snap Inc A (SNAP)	48.68	+.191	-2.8
Society Pass Inc (SOPA)	15.97	-.34	-66.9
SoFi Technologies (SOFI)	15.09	+.10	-33.4
Stanley Black & Deck (SWK)	182.20	+3.21	+2.0
Starwood Prop Trust (STWD)	24.82	+.29	+28.6
Sundial Growers Inc (SNDL)	.67	+.01	+41.4
Terex Corp (TEX)	43.54	+.72	+24.8
Tesla Inc (TSLA)	1067.00	+58.13	+51.2
Travelers Cos (TRV)	154.65	-.04	+10.2
Uber Technologies (UBER)	43.91	+.89	-13.9
United Rentals (URI)	331.73	+.606	+43.0
UnitedHealth Group (UNH)	495.38	+1.25	+41.3
Virtus Invest (VRTS)	296.46	+5.37	+36.6
Voya Financial (VOYA)	67.57	+.19	+14.9
Webster Financial (WBS)	55.28	+.61	+31.2
White Mtns Insur (WTM)	1012.36	-.655	+1.2
World Wrestling Ent (WWE)	48.36	+.61	+.6
XPO Logistics Inc (XPO)	75.32	+.93	+8.6
Xerox Holdings Corp (XRX)	22.45	+.56	-3.2

**AMERICA'S #1 HVAC SYSTEMS!**


BEST DEAL OF THE YEAR!
BUY 1 GET 1
AT OUR LOWEST PRICE!

\$99 FURNACE TUNE-UP
AND
\$49 A/C TUNE-UP NEXT SPRING*



***EXPIRES 12/31/21. CALL FOR DETAILS.**

LIMITED TIME ONLY! Offer Expires 12/31/21
BEST. DEAL. EVER!
FREE UPGRADE
WITH PURCHASE OF A NEW HEATING & COOLING SYSTEM
CALL FOR DETAILS. HARP


SAVE \$2000 OR MORE!



YOU CHOOSE YOUR FREE UPGRADE:

-  **Brand New Water Heater**
-  **Purified Indoor Air Solutions**
-  **Brand New Humidifier**
-  **AND SO MUCH MORE!**

LIMITED TIME ONLY! Offer Expires 12/31/21
PROTECT YOUR SYSTEMS ALL YEAR
\$99 TUNE-UP NOW \$49 SPRING TUNE-UP
PLUS! NO BREAKDOWN GUARANTEE
CALL FOR DETAILS. HARP

BUY OUR BEST SYSTEM TODAY, INSTALL TOMORROW
**OR IT'S FREE!**
TERMS APPLY. HARP

(860) 215-3576

© HARP Home Services LLC. All Rights Reserved. SHM.0004090-SM1 (Sheet Metal) - HTG.038411-S1 (HVAC) - PLM.0281015-P1 (Plumbing) - ELC.0200971-E1 (Electrical)

OPINION

COURANT.COM/OPINION



Demonstrators on Dec. 7 urge Congress to pass President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better bill. The measure includes federal spending on early childhood care and education. **JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP**

Universal pre-K would be regulatory burden

By John Schoof and Teresa Schuster
The Heritage Foundation

Before the pandemic, finding good quality child care could be challenging. Now, it’s even harder.

Parents of young children are being told to return to the workplace, only to find countless day cares closed. For many families, this constitutes a crisis.

Unfortunately, President Joe Biden’s Build Back Better plan would keep it that way.

As currently written, the plan would introduce unprecedented federal spending on early childhood care and education. It would fund preschool for all 3- and 4-year-olds and subsidize child care costs so that no family making \$300,000 per year or less will pay more than 7 percent of their income on other forms of child care.

A New York Times columnist calls this “revolutionary.”

It is, in the sense that it is without precedent for fiscal recklessness.

The Biden administration claims that universal pre-K would set children up for academic success and that child care subsidies will increase female labor force participation “driving economic growth.”

Unfortunately, it would do neither.

In fact, about the only thing this proposal would do make the child care crisis worse.

Why? Because the proposal would

dramatically increase the already massive regulatory burden on providers. It would require lead pre-K teachers to hold bachelors’ degrees, peg salaries to those of unionized teachers and impose maximum teacher to child ratios, among other provisions.

The Institute for Justice ranks “public preschool teacher” as the “most widely and onerously licensed occupation” in the country. Regulations, such as those requiring over 5 ½ years of experience and education, on average, before one is legally allowed to care for a child, exist in 49 states and the District of Columbia.

The Build Back Better bill would extend these regulatory burdens to all preschool teachers, public or private.

Rather than impose new regulations on the already over-regulated child care sector, lawmakers should fix some of the problems that already limit parents’ child care options and needlessly drive up costs.

For example, some employers offer on-site child care to their employees as a benefit. Many more would do so if regulations were reduced. Currently, the Fair Labor Standards Act requires employers that provide on-site child care to include the value of that benefit in overtime pay calculations. In other words, in addition to paying employees 1.5 times their hourly wage for overtime, employers must also pay them 1.5 times the hourly value of their

child care benefit.

You don’t get extra health insurance or retirement benefits for working overtime. Childcare benefits should be treated the same way. Removing the distinction between child care and other employer-provided benefits would make it easier for employers to offer their workers on-site child care.

On-site child care is an attractive option for many employees who have children or plan to start families. Without this regulation — and the extra educational requirements and wage increases that would be mandated under Build Back Better — many more employers could offer convenient, high-quality child care. It would be a great tool for employee recruitment and retention — and no federal subsidies would be needed.

In another instance of the government limiting child care choices, tax law requires any family that pays a babysitter or in-home child care provider more than \$2,300 in a single year must treat them as a “household employee,” rather than a contractor. This subjects the family and the care provider to a barrage of regulations and taxation — such as Medicare and social security tax withholding. The paperwork is a significant burden for many families, especially those who already face barriers navigating government systems.

Every family has unique needs. Satisfy-

ing them requires a wide variety of child care options, not a system of identical providers conforming for government approval. For child care to work for everyone, children must be allowed to attend the facilities that best meet their needs and enable them to achieve their full potential. These options could be employer-provided centers, family-based care providers, or something else entirely.

Government has already shown how it provides child care through decades of Head Start, the failed Great Society-era government-run preschool program that will serve as the quality standard for the proposed programs in the Build Back Better plan. Randomized controlled trials of Head Start find no evidence of academic improvement later in life.

Beyond families and children, taxpayers will also suffer, as it is clear these child care and pre-K entitlement programs won’t come close to paying for themselves.

Instead of building taller barriers, regulators should reduce burdens to allow parents to decide what’s best for their children and enable providers to respond to those preferences.

It is time to reject the government’s track record of failure and let families solve the child care crisis.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

BBB’s defeat might not be a total disaster for Biden



Jonah Goldberg

You know that old tale about the guy stranded on a rooftop during a flood who beseeches God to rescue him? A neighbor in a rowboat comes and offers to rescue him. “No, I’ve asked God to save me,” the man says. Then a police boat makes the same offer, and he gives the same reply. Finally, a helicopter arrives, same response. The flood claims the man and, when he gets to heaven, he berates the Almighty: “I had faith in you, but you didn’t save me. You let me drown. Why?”

God says: “What are you talking about? I sent two boats and a helicopter for you. What more do you want?”

Sen. Joe Manchin III of West Virginia may not be on a rescue mission from God, but the Democrats would be wise to see him that way.

On Sunday, Manchin told Fox News’ Bret Baier that he was a no vote on President Biden’s Build Back Better plan. The response from the White House and Democrats was one of poorly contained fury and unbridled panic. It was a blow to the future of “democracy” and the death of Biden’s domestic agenda and perhaps his presidency.

A lot of this outrage is premised on the same misreading of political reality that led the Democrats to push the plan in the first place.

When Biden was elected, the Democrats gained only one Senate seat and the

GOP was expected to retain control of the Senate. But Donald Trump’s meddling in two Georgia run-offs handed two seats and nominal control of a tied Senate to the Democrats. And yet, pressure from progressives and bizarre advice from some historians convinced Biden that the electorate craved a New Deal-style “transformative” agenda.

“This agenda,” Biden said last month, “the agenda that’s in these bills, is what 81 million people voted for.”

Big, if true.

A far more plausible take: Many people simply voted against Trump, or for a more competent approach to the pandemic or less drama from Washington or just because they’re Democrats who would have voted for any Democrat. But Biden decided to govern as if the political winds were a gale at his back.

If it were true that Americans were hungry for a new New Deal, Biden would have had coattails because the New Deal wasn’t just popular according to some carefully worded polls. FDR’s party gained 97 seats in the House and 11 in the Senate in 1932. In 2020, no Republican incumbent lost in the House (the Democrats lost 13 seats) and, pre-Georgia, the GOP lost only one Senate seat. That’s no groundswell.

It’s funny, the same folks furious at Manchin keep saying that one senator from West Virginia shouldn’t have the power to block Biden’s transformative agenda also implicitly think that winning two Georgia seats validates that agenda. More importantly, Manchin wasn’t one senator standing athwart Build Back Better, he was the 51st senator. Throw in Kyrsten Sinema, Democrat of Arizona, and it’s 52 senators against, 48 for. So much for



Joe Manchin’s concerns about the Build Back Better plan should be a clue to Democrats’ future. **CHIP SOMODEVILLA/GETTY**

majoritarianism.

Biden is a victim of surely one of the worst messaging screw-ups in recent political history. He got \$1.9 trillion in spending at the beginning of his presidency for COVID relief. He successfully managed to do what Trump couldn’t — pass a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure bill, with bipartisan support. Over \$3 trillion in spending — nearly twice the Obama stimulus and Obamacare price tags, combined — is plenty for your first year in office. Biden could have — and should have — declared victory and swiftly pivoted to centrist initiatives and rhetoric that would help Democrats hold on to moderates and independents in the 2022 midterms. Instead, he opted to pander to the slice of the Democratic base that opposed him in the primaries.

Now, by the standards he and congressional leaders set for themselves, he’s got a disaster on his hands. The House

Democrats he and Speaker Nancy Pelosi cajoled into voting for BBB will now have to defend their votes for a bill that was too radical and expensive to pass the Senate, at least according to their Republican opponents.

Even now, the Democrats are still misreading political reality. The defeat of Build Back Better needn’t be the disaster they are making it out to be. The defeat of health care reform (led by Hillary Clinton) in 1993 didn’t grease the skids for Bob Dole winning the presidency in 1996. Instead, that policy failure — along with the 1994 midterms — prompted Bill Clinton to drag his party back to the center. The 2022 midterms are shaping up to be a Republican tsunami, but Biden has plenty of opportunities to avoid drowning in it. After all, that’s why God sent him Joe Manchin.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

Go to

mrsparklecarwash.com

Download coupons online





VALUED SUBSCRIBER

Get more out of your subscription by setting up your digital account

- More articles than what's in print
- Breaking News alerts with the mobile app
- Unlimited access to our website
- eNewspaper, a digital replica of the paper emailed daily

It's easy to start your online access!
Visit: go-activate.com





PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR BID

Regional Refuse Disposal District #1 is a three-town municipal entity operating a transfer station in Barkhamsted, CT. The District is seeking bids for disposal of light iron. Interested parties may obtain Request for Proposal documents at the local office, by phone 860-379-1972 ext 111, email dangell@rrdd1.com or our website www.rrdd1.com. All bids must be received by Wednesday, December 29, 2021 at 11:00 AM.

Debbie Angell
Administrator
12/24/21 7113973

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Richard A. Snyder (21-00511)

The Hon. John J. McGrath, Jr. Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Windham - Colchester Probate Court, by decree dated December 13, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Heather R. Robinson, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Jane Snyder DeMaio c/o JEFFREY SETH RIVARD, CZEPIGA DALY POPE & PERRI, 15 MASSIRIO DR, BERLIN, CT 06037
12/24/21 7113750

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Buela Sylvia (21-0443)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Charles Wolfe, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
PAUL TIMOTHY SMITH, SMITH & BISHOP LLC, 27 SOUTH MAIN ST, PO BOX 338, WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06096
12/24/21 7113472

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Lillian R. Stoltz (21-0644)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Amanda L. Demonstranti, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Frances T. Lowenstein
c/o JASON WILLIAM COHEN, DREW & COHEN, PC., 47 WEST MAIN STREET, AVON, CT 06001
12/24/2021 7113696

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Richard S. Bromberg (21-00571)

The Hon. Cynthia C. Becker, Judge of the Court of Probate, Simsbury Regional Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Judith Henry, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Inez L. Bromberg
c/o Peter J. Alter, Alter & Pearson, LLC, 701 Hebron Avenue, P.O. Box 1530, Glastonbury, CT 06033
12/24/21 7113024

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS TOWN OF BARKHAMSTED

Notice is hereby given to the taxpayers of the Town of Barkhamsted, Connecticut that the second installment of property taxes billed last July and the supplemental motor vehicle tax on the Grand List of October 1, 2020 become due and payable January 1, 2022. These taxes become delinquent if not paid on or before February 1, 2022. Interest will be charged at a rate of one and one-half percent for each month or fraction thereof which elapses from the due date of the bill until the same is paid. The minimum interest charge is \$2.00 per bill. Additionally, there is a \$2.00 fee on all motor vehicle bills that are submitted as delinquent to the Department of Motor Vehicles. The Tax Collector's office is located at 67 Ripley Hill Road, Barkhamsted, CT. The office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 8:30 - 4:30. Payment preference is by mail to Tax Collector, P.O. Box 195, Pleasant Valley, CT 06063-0195. See webpage for other payment methods. In person payments require that masks be worn. Dated at Barkhamsted this 16th day of December, 2021.

Teresa T Collins, CCMC Tax Collector
12/24/21, 1/6/22 and 1/27/22 7109251

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Christian Meissenn (21-0628)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Louis A. Taylor

The fiduciary is:
Elizabeth Nigohossian, 453 N. Main Street, Suffield, CT 06078
12/24/21 7113451

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Peter D. Morgan (21-0620)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Louis A. Taylor, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Novelette Morgan, 33 Greenwood Avenue, Bloomfield, CT 06002
12/24/21 7113493

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Paul J. Hotkowski, Late of Westbrook, AKA Paul J. Hotkowski, Sr. (21-0746)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated December 17, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Donna D. Hotkowski
c/o EDWARD MCDERMOTT CASSELLA, CLOUTIER & CASSELLA, LLC, 29 ELM STREET, OLD SAYBROOK, CT 06475
12/24/21 7113162

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Jane Chudzik Waltman, AKA Jane Waltman (21-0888)

The Hon. Robert A. Randich, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Newington Probate Court, by decree dated December 20, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jennifer T. Pietrzak, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Susan I. Meagher
c/o STEPHEN MANGAN, ERICSON SCALISE & MANGAN, PC, 35 PEARL ST, STE 301, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06051
12/24/2021 7113722

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF MaryJane Glowicki (21-00849)

The Hon. Michael A. Carrier, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Berlin Probate Court, by decree dated November 29, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Susan I. Meagher, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Raymond F. Glowicki, Jr.
c/o JEFFREY ROGER STEEG, JEFFREY R. STEEG, 214 BELRIDGE ROAD, BRISTOL, CT 06010

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated:

1156 Cromwell ave
Rocky Hill 06067
860-227-2753
Auction Date- Dec 30, 2021 1:00 PM

002 Wilma Sack-Poyser Household goods
030 Symphonie Guy Household goods
136 Nellie Watkins Household goods
168 Gust Gallucci Household goods
203 Erica carew Household goods
322 Brandon Eudene Ojakian Household goods
351 Jeanette Crawford Household goods
588 Khalid Alajmy Household goods
594 megan desorbo Household goods
646 Melinda L Freeman Household goods
701 Jaylen McEachern Household goods
Yao Zhu Household goods

The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property.

12/17, 24/21 7107135

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Janet L. Bialeck, Late of West Hartford (21-0636)

The Hon. Owen P. Eagan, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of West Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated November 29, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

James O. Felice, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Alan R. Bialeck, 305 E. 86th St., Apt. 19MW, New York, NY 10028

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Frank M. Fregosi (21-0627)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Louis A. Taylor, Chief Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Donna M. Fregosi c/o JOSEPH W FLYNN, ALFANO & FLYNN LLC, 53 MOUNTAIN RD., SUFFIELD, CT 06078
12/24/21 7113586

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Cynthia K. Gronbach (21-0626)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Sharon Faulk, Assistant Clerk

The fiduciary is:
BRYON W HARMON
c/o DANIELLE PAULETTE FERRUCCI, SHIPMAN & GOODWIN LLP ONE CONSTITUTION PLAZA, HARTFORD, CT 06103
12/24/2021 7113709

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Robert A. Randich (21-0889)

The Hon. Robert A. Randich, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Newington Probate Court, by decree dated December 20, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jennifer T. Pietrzak * Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Peter M. Pellegri, 143 Radnor Lane, Oakville, CT 06779
Gregory M. Pellegri, 137 Avenue, Newington, CT 06111
12/24/2021 7113728

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joseph G. Zappulla, AKA Giuseppe G. Zappulla (21-0477)

The Hon. David A. Baram, Judge of the Court of Probate, Tobacco Valley Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Louis A. Taylor

The fiduciary is:
Steven Zappulla c/o CARL THOMAS LANDOLINA, FAHEY & LANDOLINA ATTORNEYS, LLC, 487 SPRING STREET, WINDSOR LOCKS, CT 06096
12/24/21 7113448

LEGAL NOTICE DECISIONS SUFFIELD PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Planning and Zoning Commission met on Monday, December 20, 2021, at the Suffield Town Hall Hearing Room and rendered the following decision:

Approved File 2017-118: Request from Rayco Residential Development, LLC, to reduce the performance bond for Stonegate subdivision Map 42H, Block 45, Lot 322, 1-15 to \$31,000.00. Applicant: Rayco Residential Development.

Approved with conditions: File 2021-7: Request from United Gear and Machine for a site plan modification for a 22,000 SF two-story commercial building located at 1087 East Street South. Map 70H, Block 51, Lot 27. Applicant - Kurt Malec.

Approved File 2021-9: Request from the Board of Selectmen for a CT General Statutes Section 8-24 Report to accept Stonegate Lane as a public town road.

Mark Winne, Chairman
Ginny Bromage, Secretary
12/24/21 7113090

REQUEST FOR BID

Regional Refuse Disposal District #1 is a three-town municipal entity operating a transfer station in Barkhamsted, CT. The District is seeking bids for diesel fuel. Interested parties may obtain Request for Proposal documents at the local office, by phone 860-379-1972 ext 111, email dangell@rrdd1.com or our website www.rrdd1.com. All bids must be received by Monday, January 24, 2022 at 11:00 AM.

Debbie Angell
Administrator
12/24/21 7113887

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Joseph J. Natalie (21-0847)

The Hon. Robert A. Randich, Judge of the Court of Probate, Newington Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jennifer T. Pietrzak, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Helen Natalie c/o RICHARD P KUZMAK, MCVANE BELLOBUONO KU, 801 MAPLE AVENUE, HARTFORD, CT 06114
12/14/21 7113544

LEGAL NOTICE GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Glastonbury Town Council will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 11, 2022, at 8:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Town Hall, 2155 Main Street, Glastonbury and/or by Zoom Video Conferencing to consider an \$8,000 appropriation and transfer from the General Fund-Unassigned Fund Balance to Capital Projects-Land Acquisition.

Dated at Glastonbury, CT this 21st day of December, 2021.

GLASTONBURY TOWN COUNCIL
By: Thomas P. Gullotta, Chairman
12/24/21 7113406

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Sal Kolodner, late of West Hartford (21-0545)

The Hon. Owen P. Eagan, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of West Hartford Probate Court, by decree dated December 14, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

James O. Felice, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
MARTIN MCQUILLAN,
John C. Matulis c/o JANUSZEWSKI M & D, 165 WEST MAIN ST, RD. BOX 150, NEW BRITAIN, CT 06050

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Michel Francis Drecq, Late of Clinton, AKA Michel Francis Robert Alfred Drecq (21-0742)

The Hon. Jeannine Lewis, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Saybrook Probate Court, by decree dated December 17, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Marge B. Calltharp, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Dolores T. Drecq
c/o JANE R MARSH, LAW OFFICES OF JANE R MARSH, LLC, 6 ELM ST, DEEP RIVER, CT 06417
12/24/2021 7113662

TOWN OF GRANBY LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given to all persons liable for the payment of taxes to the Town of Granby on the Grand List of October 1, 2020 and Motor Vehicle Supplemental List of 2020. All supplemental motor vehicle taxes and the second installment of real estate and personal property taxes become due and payable January 1, 2022. NO SECOND NOTICE HAS BEEN MAILED FOR REAL ESTATE AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAXES. New property owners who have not received a bill should contact the tax office immediately. Failure to receive a bill does not invalidate the tax or interest due.

If payment is not made on or before February 1, 2022, each bill becomes subject to interest according to the General Statutes of the State of Connecticut. Taxes may be paid by mail, online at www.granby-ct.gov, or at the tax office drop-box outside Town Hall at 15 N. Granby Road.

Lauren C. Stuck, C.C.M.C.
Collector of Revenue
12/24/21, 1/4/22, 1/25/22 7108495

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

ESTATE OF Elsie Veronica Benson, AKA Elsie V. Benson, AKA Elsie Benson (21-0845)

The Hon. Robert A. Randich, Judge of the Court of Probate, District of Newington Probate Court, by decree dated December 21, 2021, ordered that all claims must be presented to the fiduciary at the address below. Failure to promptly present any such claim may result in the loss of rights to recover on such claim.

Jennifer T. Pietrzak, Clerk

The fiduciary is:
Angela M. Eagan
c/o DENISE D KENNEDY
DEL SOLE & DEL SOLE, LLP DEL SOLE & DEL SOLE, LLP 46 S. WHITTLESLEY AVE., WALLINGFORD, CT 06492
12/24/21 7113669

TAX COLLECTOR'S NOTICE

Pursuant to Sec. 12-145 of the Connecticut statutes, the undersigned Tax Collector of the Town of East Granby give notice that she will be ready to receive Supplemental Motor Vehicle taxes and the second installment of Real Estate Property taxes on January 1, 2022, at the Tax Collector's office in the Town Hall of East Granby on Monday - Thursday 8 - 12 & 1-4 on Friday from 8-1. Payments must be received or postmarked by Monday February 1, 2022, to avoid interest.

All taxes remaining unpaid after February 2, 2022, will be charged interest from January 1, 2022, at the rate of 1.5% for each month elapsing from the due date of the delinquent tax to the date of payment, with a minimum interest charge of \$2.00 Sec. 12-146.

Failure to receive a tax bill does not relieve the taxpayer of their responsibility for the payment of taxes or delinquent charges Sec. 12-130.

Dated at East Granby, Connecticut this 2ND day of December 2021

Sherry Clemens, CCMC Tax Collector
12/24/21 & 1/7, 25/22 7098472

Legal Notice Town of Cromwell and Cromwell Fire District

Legal notice is hereby given that all supplemental Motor Vehicle Tax Bills and the Second installment of Real Estate and Personal Property on the 2020 Grand List are due and payable on January 1, 2022. Taxes become delinquent if payment is not postmarked on or before February 1, 2022. Interest will be charged at 1.5% per month from the due date of January 1. A minimum of \$ 2.00 is charged for each delinquent Town and Fire District tax bill.

Office Hours- Monday – Friday, 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Douglas Sienna CCMC
Cromwell Tax Collector
12/24, 1/4, 1/27/2021 7083689

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE MIDDLETOWN ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS JANUARY 6, 2022

PUBLIC COMMENT MAY BE LIMITED TO FIVE MINUTES. PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT WRITTEN COMMENTS PRIOR TO OR AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

1. Request for a G.S. 14-54 location approval for a general repairer and sales of used cars at 512 – 516 Washington Street. Applicant/agent John Kleja. G.S. 14-54 2021-1

2. Request for a variances of Sections 21.02 for minimum lot frontage for 15 lots and for minimum front yards for 16 lots on Military Road. Applicant/agent The Middletown Housing Partnership Trust, Inc./Attorney David E. Rosenberg. V2021-11

Steven Kovach, Chairman
Zoning Board of Appeals
7111270 12/24/21, 12/31/21

NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

Extra Space Storage will hold a public auction to sell personal property described below belonging to those individuals listed below at the location indicated : 171 Roberts St., East Hartford, CT 06108. January 7, 2022 @ 12:00 PM. 192-Jennifer Cruz-Vehicle, 254-Nicole Campbell-Household Goods, 328-Monique Lovelock-Household Goods, 336-Noreen Boadi-Household goods, furniture, 473U-Malena Depugh-house hold item, 682-Francis Smtarthe-Household Goods, 687-Flavio Oliveira-Refrigerator, Shelves, Boxes, Books, Magazines. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.storagetreasures.com. Purchases must be made with cash only and paid at the above referenced facility in order to complete the transaction. Extra Space Storage may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the personal property. 12/24, 12/31/2021 7107923


The City of Hartford Zoning Board of Appeals held a Virtual Regular Meeting on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. and voted as follows:

a. WITHDRAWN - 158 Homestead Ave – Appeal of a zoning enforcement officer's cease and desist order dated August 12, 2021 for code case number 10587896. Owner & Applicant: Pauline & Devon Wilson.

b. PARTIALLY RESCINDED - 243 Sisson Ave – Appeal of a Zoning Enforcement Cease and Desist Order dated August 31, 2021 for code case number 10673309. Owner: Ishshah Chadash Remnant Ministries; Applicant: Deborah Garner.

c. CONTINUED to 1/4/22 - 39 Grand St – Request for a variance to allow a monument sign to be located in the side yard; and, to allow a monument sign to be located 5'6" from a driveway when a 10' setback from driveways is required per Figure 8.10-A. Owner: Charter Oak Health Center, Inc.; Applicant: ARTFX Signs c/o Lynda Laureano.

Meeting minutes and documents are available online: <https://www.meetinginfo.org/meetings/1099>. 12/24/21 7112461









Homing In
SUNDAYS IN
Home &
Real Estate

Hartford Courant

FREE


PUZZLES & GAMES

Play online every day at [PlayJumble.com](https://playjumble.com)



Jumble Daily | Jumble Crossword Daily | Jumble Sunday

Sudoku | Mahjong | Bubble Shooter Pro | Plus many more



CTshopsHere

Buy. Sell. Save.

To advertise, call 860-525-2525
or placeanad.courant.com

Stuff

Stuff

BLENDER, "Smoothie", 32oz., 350W motor, N.I.B. \$20. 203-606-0932

AT YOUR SERVICE

At Your Service

CALL MARKS AUTO PARTS
in East Granby. For more information
860-653-2551

CTshopsHere

Buy. Sell. Save.

courant.com/advertiser

860-525-2525

www.courant.com/pets

pets

Adoption • News • Advice • More

Dogs

AKC PUPPIES + AUSSIDOODLES
www.hiddenhillshomestead.org

BOXER / HUSKY Boxer / Husky Mix puppies. Perfect Christmas present. Family raised both parents purebred, and on site. Ready to go now. (860) 933-7602

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living

AT HOME

Get Comfy.

Every Friday.

Car Reviews
Saturdays in
MOTORING

Steve Dale's
PET WORLD
Sundays in Smarter Living



BLUESTONE! BLUESTONE!!
BLUESTONE!!!
Steps - Sidewalks Patios
We also repair existing steps /
sidewalks / patios
860-633-6612

FIREWOOD 2 cords \$390 includes
delivery, 1 cord, call for pricing 860-
228-2003

HECKEL BASSOON 7493 Has
High E, High F, A Flat, B Flat Trill
Silver Toned Hole Inserts, 2 Pre-
War Bocals All Work Done By Hans
Moennig \$40,000 Please
Call 201-612-0624

ICE CREAM CHAIRS white, from
50's 20.00ea 860-993-7061

KLOTER FARMS HUTCH Exc. Cond.
\$1200 CASH ONLY 860-970-8986

AT HOME

Get Comfy.

Every Friday.

www.courant.com/pets



SHEDS BUILT ON SITE
built on site, rough Sawn lum-
ber, well built, full size lumber, shed
base included. Call for pricing: 860-
228-2003 ctshedsbuiltonsite.com



STONE WALLS Walkways, natural
stone. We can break stone into usable
wall stone. Pavers, blue stone, patio,
fire pits.

Call 860-633-6612

FREE WORK Take down, yard expans-
ion, brush clearing & saw mill service.
Free written estimates & reasonable
rates. 860-228-2003

WANTED JAZZ & ROCK RECORDS by
collector Mike 860-573-8678

Wanted To Buy



1 BUY VINTAGE ELECTRONICS
OLD TOYS, MILITARY JEWELRY,
ADVERTISING WATCHES, MUSICAL
INSTRUMENTS, CAMERAS,
WATCHES, SIGNS, ART, SPORTS
MEMORABILIA, OLD STUFF,
ANTIQUES, GUITARS, AMPS, TUBE
HI-FI, RECEIVERS, AUDIO EQ,
RADIOS, HAM, CB, SAXOPHONES &
MANY OTHER OLD ITEMS!
CALL 860-707-9350

ALWAYS BUYING MACHINIST
TOOLBOXES Tools & tooling, conte-
nts of machine shops, home worksho-
ps & small lathes Call 860-985-5760



ANTIQUES & OLD STUFF WANTED
Bottles, Cocks, Jugs, Toys, Games,
Silver Plated Items, Costume Jewelry,
Pottery, Typewriters, Sewing Machines,
Clocks, Tools, Xmas, Lanterns, Oil
Lamps, Glassware, Knives, Hunting,
Fishing, Books. 860-874-8396



BUYING ALL MILITARY ITEMS
Vietnam War, Korea, WWII, WWI, Civil
War, US German Japanese Uniforms,
Medals, Patches, Helmets, Clothing,
Knives, Photos, Literature, Letters,
Bayonets, Swords, Canteens, Muskets,
Powder Flasks, Flags. 860-874-8396



BUYING PRE1980 Toys, Model Kits,
Comic Bks, Baseball Card Posters &
Cards, Pennants, Political, Postcards,
Beer, Bar, Soda, Oil & Gas Station
Cans&Signs, License Plates, Jewelry,
Masonic & Fraternal Items, Zippos, I
check Bsmnt/Attic. 860-817-4350

Car Reviews
Saturdays in
MOTORING

Business

Business Opportunities

CARPET CLEANING VAN 2002 Ford
E250. Truck mounted equipment,
70 gallon solution tank. Retiring.
\$12,000. 860-916-9252

Antiques/
Classics

PORSCHE 914 1974 - \$2200 Solid
Rolling Chassis Call No Txt 860-
209-6629

Auto / Truck Wanted

CASH PAID - for any Toyota, other
makes. Any condition. Running or
not, crashed okay. Will take other
makes and models. 203-600-4431

2 Lines

3 Days

FREE*

To Place An Ad
Go Online today
courant.com/advertiser

CTshopsHere

Buy. Sell. Save.

*Merchandise Ads Restrictions Apply

2 Lines

3 Days

FREE*

To Place
An Ad
Go Online
today
courant.com/
advertiser

CTshopsHere

Buy. Sell. Save.

*Merchandise Ads Restrictions Apply

PUBLIC NOTICES

Hartford	Connecticut	Liquor Notices
<p>NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE- SELF STORAGE UNITS LEGAL NOTICE: NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE: Storage Sense Southington will hold an online auction to sell personal property described below belonging to the individual listed at the location indicated: 751 West Queen Street, Southington, CT 06489 1/3/2022 2:00 AM. Unit 240 Jennifer Berube: Laptop, 2 mattresses, microwave, box spring, storage shelving, home goods, umbrella, misc. boxes, headlight restoration kit, blankets, space heater, Tupperware, comforter and blankets, antifreeze footbath, & other goods. The auction will be listed and advertised on www.lockerfox.com. Purchases must be made with cash only paid at the above referenced facility to complete the transaction. Storage Sense may refuse any bid and may rescind any purchase up until the winning bidder takes possession of the property. 12/24/21 7113215</p>	<p>NOTICE OF DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS To enrolled members of the Democratic Party of the Town of: West Hartford, Connecticut Pursuant to the Rules of the Connecticut Democratic Party and State election laws, you are hereby notified that CAUCUSES FOR DTC DISTRICTS 1-9 will be held on: January 5TH, 2022, at 7PM, at the WEST HARTFORD TOWN HALL AUDITORIUM, 50 South Main Street, West Hartford, CT 06107. To endorse candidates for the Democratic Town Committee and to transact other business as may be proper to come before said caucus, MASKS WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL WHO ATTEND. Dated at West Hartford, Connecticut, on the DEC 23, 2021 Democratic Town Committee West Hartford John Bailey Chairperson 12/24/21 7114840</p>	<p>LIQUOR PERMIT NOTICE OF APPLICATION This is to give notice that I, DAVID P BRAY JR, 87 BIRCH RD, WEST SUFFIELD, CT 06093-2704. Have filed an application placarded 12/29/2021 with the Department of Consumer Protection for a PACKAGE STORE LIQUOR PERMIT for the sale of alcoholic liquor on the premises at 721 PARK AVE BLOOMFIELD CT 06002-2402. The business will be owned by B N S INC. Entertainment will consist of: Objections must be filed by: 02-09-2022. 12/29/2021 DAVID P BRAY JR 12/24, 12/31/2021 7114540</p>
<p>Car Reviews Saturdays in MOTORING</p>	<p>Car Reviews Saturdays in MOTORING</p>	<p>Car Reviews Saturdays in MOTORING</p>



tribune publishing
recruitment services

YOUR
PERFECT
HIRE
IS WAITING

Stop wasting time searching for talent.
Find the right talent with tribune publishing
recruitment services.

We work hard to make your talent search easy. With
our expansive network of distinguished print and online
publications and their respective reach and readership,
you'll have access to top talent from coast-to-coast.

Plus, enjoy advanced job matching and ad targeting
technology, access print and digital advertising
opportunities, career fairs and more.

Extend your reach. Access customized
technology. Simplify your search.

courant.com/jobs

OBITUARIES BY TOWN

Avon Leah Kaplan Galen Smith	Out of State Heather L. Magnano Abraham Tsarfaty Loretta K. Wasiele
Bristol Antoinette Chiarillo Ronald J. Guenther, Jr	Rocky Hill Richard C. St. Pierre
Canton Olive D'Atri Jeffrey R. Gaumond	South Windsor Wynona A. Lopes
Cromwell Sebastian Passamano	Southington Gary Turci
East Hartland Jeffrey R. Gaumond	Torrington Olive D'Atri
Hartford William F. Boccalatte Thomas H. Donlon Richard J. Melluzzo	Vernon William F. Boccalatte
Manchester Thomas H. Donlon	West Hartford Jeanne Cormier Leah Kaplan Abraham Tsarfaty
Middletown Alvin Lucier	OUT OF STATE William F. Boccalatte Boxford, MA
New Britain Ronald J. Guenther, Jr	Thomas H. Donlon Gulf Breeze, FL
Newington Clara M. Fort Galen Smith	Heather L. Magnano Conway, SC
Other Towns in CT Jeffrey R. Gaumond Wynona A. Lopes Richard J. Melluzzo Andrea Moran Raymond Spencer, Jr. Loretta K. Wasiele	Richard J. Melluzzo Great Barrington, MA Abraham Tsarfaty Saint Lucie, FL Loretta K. Wasiele Duluth, GA

* Denotes name listing only.
Please note: not all death notices are in alphabetical order.

OBITUARIES

Boccalatte, William F.



William F. "Bill" Boccalatte, Jr., a recent resident of Boxford, MA, died peacefully at home on the morning of Saturday, December 4, 2021. Born on April 16, 1941, Bill was raised in Hartford, CT and spent many memorable summers at the family's Sound View Beach cottage with his immediate family, cousins, aunts, and uncles. He graduated from Weaver High School and went on to earn an Associate Degree in electronics from the Hartford State Technical Institute. Bill retired from Pratt & Whitney in 1998, after 25 years of employment with the aerospace company.



Bill was married to the love of his life, Elizabeth "June" (Hobbs) Boccalatte, for 52 years. Bill and June started their lives together in a small apartment on Sigourney Street in Hartford, CT. After having two children, they moved to Vernon, CT where they spent 28 wonderful years. In 2006, the retired couple moved to Versailles, KY (a.k.a "horse country") to be near June's family. After 8 years in Versailles, they followed their daughter, Julie, to Charlotte, NC. In June, 2021, Bill and June moved to Boxford, MA to live with their son, Philip.

Bill was passionate about many things, from photography to playing the horses on Saturday afternoons with his son, Philip. Moved by a spiritual experience decades ago, and further inspired by the works of J. Krishnamurti, Bill had a unique philosophy about "one's self", which he shared with anyone and everyone who would listen. He wrote two books dedicated to his message; Selfology and Willy the Wave, the latter of which was published in 2018.

Bill is survived by his wife June, of Boxford, MA, his son, Philip Boccalatte and his wife, Flor of Boxford, his daughter, Julie (Boccalatte) and her husband, Clint Eudy of New London, NC, and his four granddaughters, Isabella and Elizabeth Boccalatte of Boxford, and Paysen and Kaysi Doran of New London. Bill also leaves behind his sister, Rosemary Molloy of Redhook, NY and his brother, John Boccalatte and his wife, Michele of Middletown, CT, as well as many nieces, nephews, and cousins. Bill is predeceased by his father, William F. Boccalatte, Sr. and his mother, Tillie A. Boccalatte of Hartford, CT, as well as his brother-in-law, Andy Molloy of Redhook, NY.

At the request of the family, a private memorial will be held in Connecticut at a later date. To share a memory of Bill with his family, please visit www.cgfuneral-homegeorgetown.com
The Conte - Giamberardino Funeral Home, 14 Pleasant Street, Georgetown has been entrusted with Bill's care.
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Cormier, Jeanne "Joan" Steben



Jeanne Steben Cormier "Joan", 87, beloved wife of predeceased husband Joseph Arthur Cormier of 67 years, died at the Reservoir on Sunday, December 19, 2021 surrounded by her loving sons. Born in Hartford, she was the daughter of the late Edward M. Steben and Georgiana (Gauvin) Steben. Joan lived 62 years in West Hartford. She was an active parishioner of St. Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hartford where she served as President of the Woman's Club as well as a 6th grade CCD teacher and coordinator for 25 years. Joan graduated High School from the Mount St. Joseph Academy in West Hartford in 1951. Joan alongside with her husband operated Cormier's Esso/Exxon in West Hartford for 52 years. She and her husband loved square dancing and they were active members of the Shooting Stars and other clubs for 18 years. In addition to her husband and parents, she was predeceased by 3 sisters: Lucille Bond, Therese Armstrong and Claire McAuliffe as well as 4 brothers: Raymond, Normand, Edward and Roland Steben. She is survived by her three sons and daughters-in-law; Kenneth and Lucinda Cormier of West Hartford, John and Nancy Cormier of Swansea, MA, Martin and Dawn Cormier of Rockaway Township, NJ; her sister-in-law Corinne Cormier Hermann of Rocky Hill; 3 grandchildren; 5 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Joan approached living with great passion and inner fire. She made a difference in all the lives she touched and remembered for her strong spirit, sense of humor, love of family and kindness. The family would like to thank the Nurses and Aides at the Reservoir for the excellent care they provided. The funeral service and Mass of Christian Burial was held at St. Thomas the Apostle Church in West Hartford, and the burial was private. Donations in her memory may be made to The Little Sister's of the Poor, 1365 Enfield St., Enfield, CT 06082. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Molloy Funeral Home
906 FARMINGTON AVENUE
WEST HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06119

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Stories live on. Tell theirs.

Share your loved one's story.
placeanad.courant.com/obituaries

Hartford Courant
media group
In partnership with
Legacy.com®



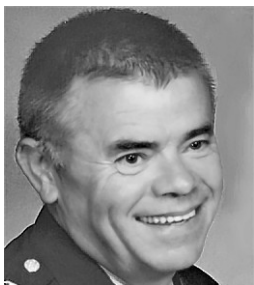
OBITUARIES

D'Atri, Olive (Atkinson)



Olive Atkinson D'Atri passed away on December 7, 2021 at the age of 83. Born in Willimantic, CT on October 8, 1938, she was the daughter of the late Olive and Joseph Atkinson. Olive is predeceased by her husband of 59 years Vincent Michael D'Atri. She is survived by her two daughters Kim D'Atri Trumbull and son-in-law Kevin of New Hartford, CT as well as daughter Christina D'Atri Caslowitz and son-in-law Carl of Canton. She also leaves four beloved grandchildren: Ashley and Morgan Trumbull and Brandon and Taylor Zuccaro. She was anticipating her first great grandchild, Zoey Zuccaro, expected in January. In addition, Olive is predeceased by her brother Joseph Atkinson of Aiken, SC and survived by her sister Doris Hartley of Simsbury, CT. Olive was a 1956 graduate of Windham High School in Willimantic, CT. She dedicated her career to insurance at Connecticut General and later at Security Connecticut Life Insurance until she retired in 2000. Olive loved vacationing with her husband in their motorhome, walking the trails near her Canton home, and spending long summer days at the family cottage on West Hill Lake. Her family and friends can attest to her sharp, feisty, and charismatic personality that was adored and memorable to so many. For the past two years, Olive was a resident of Keystone Place in Torrington, CT where she was made at home thanks to the care of the compassionate staff. Olive enjoyed the company of great friends and loved participating in the fun activities organized by this close-knit community. Olive was truly cared for by the Keystone staff and her family is forever grateful for the support and kindness they bestowed on her. There are no calling hours, however, a celebration of life gathering is anticipated for a later date. Contributions can be made in memory of Olive Atkinson D'Atri to the Dementia Society of America by mail to PO Box 600, Doylestown, PA 18901 or online.
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Donlon, Thomas H



Thomas H. Donlon, best friend and husband of Sara L. Donlon, passed away comfortably in his Florida home surrounded by family on Sunday, December 19th, 2021. Born in Manchester on January 17th, 1936 to Harold and Mary Donlon, he attended local Catholic schools, graduating Holy Trinity H.S. in 1954. He then joined the USAF and served in Korea. Upon his return he attended UConn, received his bachelor's degree in education, and taught English at Manchester High School for 22 years. But his true passion was serving his country in the army reserve as a drill sergeant and educator for 20 years. Tom is survived by his wife Sara and their two children, Erin Donlon Chacon (Will) and Thomas W. Donlon. He is also survived by his daughters Debra Donlon-Achilli (Rick), Cheryl Barber (Tom), and Colleen Combs (Steve), their mother Carol Donlon, his sister Patricia LaFleur, 7 grandchildren and 3 great grandchildren. There will be no calling hours, final arrangements will be at the convenience of the family.
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Fort, Clara Marie



Clara Marie Fort, 95, of Newington, widow to the late Charles Fort, passed away peacefully on December 20, 2021. Clara is survived by her devoted children: Marie, Charles Jr., Karen, Vincent, and Gloria. Funeral services for Clara will be held at St. James Missionary Baptist Church, 45 Daly Avenue, New Britain on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 with a visitation at 10:00am and full service at 11:00am. Interment services will follow at Fairview Cemetery, Smalley Street, New Britain. New Britain Memorial & Donald D. Sagarino Funeral Home, 444 Farmington Avenue, New Britain have been entrusted with arrangements. For a full obituary and online memorial, please visit www.NewBritainSagarino.com.
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Gaumond, Jeffrey Ross



Jeffrey Ross Gaumond, 41, of East Hartland, died Sunday, December 12, 2021. He was born March 24, 1980 in Hartford, beloved son of Gary Gaumond of Canton and the late Lynn Ellen (Anderson) Gaumond and had lived in Canton until purchasing his own home in East Hartland 15 years ago. He was a graduate of Canton High School, where he was Goalie of the Varsity Soccer team and Co-Captain of the Varsity Basketball team. He had attended Green Mountain College and was a graduate of New England Tech Institute. Jeff was an Auto Technician for Mitchell Auto Group for many years. Jeff enjoyed spending time outdoors snowboarding, camping, hiking, boating, and fishing. He took road trips across the country, attended many outdoor concerts, and loved to party with friends. Jeff was fond of VW Busses, was an avid fan of Phish and the Grateful Dead and dearly loved his dogs, Hailey, Capone, and Nova. In addition to his father, Jeff leaves his sister, Kara Marie Gaumond of Canton; his cousins, Megan Lillis-Coss (Yaacov), Scott Lillis (Venus), Kate Renna (Adam), Andrew Webb, Christopher Webb, Ashley LeBlanc (James), Ryan Halverstadt, Ross Halverstadt, Erin Fable, Kyle Silva, Brett Silva, Kyle Rash, Lauren Rash, Jeremy, Matthew, Craig Scott and Christopher Anderson and his aunts and uncles, Kim Lillis, Craig and Debbie Anderson, Leigh and Richard Webb, Gwen and Mark Halverstadt, Dawn and Mark Silva and Denise Rash. Calling hours will be held on Friday, April 22, 2022 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon at the Vincent Funeral Home, 880 Homestead Street in Simsbury. Burial will follow in the Simsbury Cemetery. Donations in Jeff's memory may be made to Bandits Place, PO BOX 44, East Hartland, CT 06027. Please visit his Book of Memories at www.vincentfuneralhome.com for online tributes.
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Every life story
deserves to be told.

Share your loved one's story at
placeanad.courant.com/obituaries

Hartford Courant
media group
In partnership with
Legacy.com®

Lopes, Wynona Alice



Wynona Alice Lopes, "Woody", 93, beloved wife of the late William Lopes, passed away on Monday, December 13th, 2021, at The Residence at South Windsor Farms. She was born in Machiasport, ME, on January 1, 1928, to Stephen and Carrie Wood. She graduated from New Hampshire State Hospital School of Nursing and was a Registered Nurse with Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston and Hartford Hospital in Manchester. Woody married William Lopes in Machiasport, ME and eventually they found their forever home on Lake Street in Manchester, CT where they raised their two children William Jr. and Debra. Woody and William enjoyed traveling the world together in their retirement years and were blessed with two grandchildren. Throughout Woody's life she made it her mission to be of service to others. She was an active member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church and the Hartford County 4H Club and volunteered for the Hockanum Valley Friendly Visitors program, the food pantry, and the Samaritan Homeless Shelter. In 1996, she was awarded outstanding volunteer by the Manchester Community Services Council. Woody spent time doing what she would call, "the little things" for others; making hundreds of care packages for friends and family, spending timeless hours making soups and baked goods for the church fairs and knitting hundreds of garments for local organizations within the community and beyond. As Woody would say, "God gives back what you give." She is survived by her brother John Wood and his wife Carolyn, two sisters; Lois Wasson and Nellie Gatcomb, her son William Lopes, Jr., her daughter Debra King and her partner Lyle Smith, her grandchildren Leah Lopes and Todd Dzen and his wife Melissa, and her great-granddaughter Avery Dzen, and many nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be held on Monday, December 27th, 2021, at 11:00 am at St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 41 Park Street, Manchester, with visitation at the church prior from 10-11 am. The family asks that you join them to celebrate Woody's life with many pictures and wonderful stories during the visitation hours. Burial will follow the services at East Cemetery, 220 East Center Street, Manchester. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to the Vitas Hospice Healthcare at 199 Park Rd Ext Ste 102, Middlebury, CT 06762. For online condolences, please visit www.tierneyfuneralhome.com.
JOHN F.
Tierney
TIERNEYFUNERALHOME.COM
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Magnano, Heather Lynn



Heather Lynn Magnano, 30, born in Springfield, MA on September 5, 1991, beloved daughter of Joseph and Barbara Magnano, sister to Ryan Magnano, passed away on Wednesday, November 17, 2021. Heather graduated from Stroudsburg PA. High School in 2009. She attended Northampton Community College and East Stroudsburg University for Psychology, until 2014 and graduated from Stroudsburg School of Cosmetology in 2015 and from Ultimate Medical Academy with a degree in Medical Coding in 2020. She was a talented artist and writer, a kind, caring, spiritual person and fluent in many languages, loved music, collecting geologic minerals, the ocean and nature. Heather will be deeply missed by her circle of family and friends and will never be forgotten. Heather was preceded in death by her grandparents, Joseph & Dorothy Magnano and Alan T. Churchill and leaves behind her grandmother Marjorie Churchill Purnell and many uncles, aunts and cousins.
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Melluzzo, Richard J

Richard Joseph Melluzzo, 70, of Great Barrington, MA passed away peacefully at home surrounded by his family on Sunday, December 19, 2021. Rich was born in Hartford, CT on February 14, 1951, the son of the late Salvatore and Concetta Melluzzo. Rich is survived by his wife of 48 years Patrice and his two sons and their families: Bryant, his wife Shannon, and their children Xander and Marabella; as well as Daniel, his wife Holly, and their daughters Ava and Olive. He was predeceased by his parents and his sister Theresa Melluzzo Voss. The family will receive friends on Monday, Dec. 27, 2021, from 4:00pm to 7:00pm at Finnerty & Stevens Funeral Home in Great Barrington, MA. The Liturgy of Christian Burial will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 28, 2021 at 10:00am at St. Peter's Church, 213 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA, conducted by Rev. William P. Murphy, Pastor. To view the full obituary or send remembrances to his family please go to www.finnertyandstevens.com
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Moran, Andrea

Andrea T. Moran, of Columbia, passed away at home surrounded by her family on Sunday December 19, 2021. She was born on June 16, 1943, the daughter of Bernice Smith-Hewes and the late Royden F. Smith, Jr. Andrea was a social worker and assessment manager at Natchaug Hospital in Mansfield. She leaves her beloved husband John W. Moran and her five children: Styles Colburn, Jill LeMasurier (Douglas), Tyler Colburn, Linsay Quiemette (John) and Shannon Colburn; brothers, Todd Smith (Diane), Garth Smith and Drake Smith; grandchildren Jacob and Shayla Gawlak, Brandon Colburn, Amanda, John P. and Cody Quiemette and Ryan Colburn. She loved her family and her Boston Terriers. She will be missed by all. Andrea's family will receive relatives and friends on Monday, December 27, 2021 from 5:00pm to 7:00pm at Potter Funeral Home, 456 Jackson St., Willimantic. Her Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, December 28, 2021 at 10:00am at the Funeral Home. Burial will follow at Pink Cemetery, Mansfield. For an online memorial guestbook please visit www.potterfuneralhome.com.
Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Share memories, express
condolences, and celebrate
life in the obituary section
on courant.com.

OBITUARIES

Kaplan, Leah (Maskowsky)



Leah (Lee) Kaplan passed away peacefully on December 22, 2021 at her home in West Hartford. She is the daughter of her beloved parents, Anna and David Maskowsky of Ashley Falls, Massachusetts, and sister of Muriel Ketay, formerly of Concord, North Carolina. Her father owned the Collins Diner in Canaan and Farm Crest Dairy of Torrington, and she adored joining him on his milk delivery routes and waiting on customers in the historic rail car diner. Her mother Anna was a teacher at age 17 and later owned Anna's Dress Shop in Winsted, Connecticut and Leah fondly recalled their trips into New York City to select merchandise for the boutique. She loved spending time at their cabin on Highland Lake.

Leah was born in New Haven in 1932 and grew up in Torrington. A graduate of Torrington High School, Leah enjoyed orchestra, basketball and softball and was a majorette and played the accordion. It seems there was nothing she couldn't do, from home design projects to her talents in painting and famous holiday brisket. She holds degrees in education from Central Connecticut University, and the University of Hartford, earning a Master's degree at a time when that was uncommon for women.



Leah was an elementary school teacher in Torrington for most of her distinguished career. She was a caring and dedicated teacher who reached the most difficult students and had a stellar reputation among her peers. She was recognized as Torrington's Educator of the Year and was an active member of Alpha Delta Kappa and the Connecticut Education Association. Leah took immense joy and pride in teaching, always going above and beyond to organize special events like a cotillion dance and metric fair, coaching basketball, and more. She loved hearing from former students as they became adults and left an immeasurable legacy as an educator.

Leah was a talented painter who loved art, music, and was a volunteer at cultural venues including the Warner Theater and the Farmington Valley Arts Center. She was the past president of the Farmington Woods Women's Club, a group of women who brought her much joy. She loved reading (including reading the Hartford Courant every day) and trying to solve mysteries. She was warm, funny, and kind, always putting others she cared about, and strangers, first and modeling this example for her children and grandchildren, who have followed in her footsteps in service to others. She was quick to perform a skit, don a costume, or exhibit her boundless joyful spirit in countless ways. After retiring from teaching, she lived and made many friends at Lakeridge in Winsted, Farmington Woods in Avon and the McAuley in West Hartford.

Leah was predeceased by her husband Jerome (Jerry) Kaplan. She was the proud mother of Shelley Nickles (John) of Arlington, Virginia; Robyn Kaplan-Cho (Doug) of West Hartford, Connecticut; and Alanna Kaplan Muñoz (Pablo) of Maplewood, New Jersey. She will be dearly missed by her beloved grandchildren Hannah, Cammie and Grace Cho, Kealani Nickles, and Ceci and Sadie Muñoz. She also leaves her nieces, Ilene Kent, Joanne Applebaum, and Susan Kent. Leah will be missed too by countless friends and former students.

We wish to extend our heartfelt gratitude to her angel nurse, James, at McAuley, the Farmington Valley VNA, and St. Francis Hospital for their compassionate care. Donations in her memory can be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

A memorial service will be held at Congregation Beth Israel (701 Farmington Ave, West Hartford) on Monday December 27 at 1pm. For the safety of those who wish to honor Leah, guests must be vaccinated and masks are required. There is ample room for social distancing in the large and beautiful sanctuary.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Smith, Galen



Galen Smith, 89, of Avon, loving husband to the late Therese (Berger) passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2021 at John Dempsey Hospital. Born in Sherman, ME, he was the son of the late Arrol and Annie (Stubbs) Smith. He grew up in Maine and graduated from Sherman Mills High School. Galen served his country honorably in the United States Air Force



before joining the carpenters union where he practiced the trade meticulously until his retirement. He leaves his son Brett Smith and his wife Lori of South Dakota; his granddaughter Tiffany Colucci and her husband Christopher and his great grandchildren Anthony and Bella Colucci; his sister Helen King and her husband Leo of Sherman, ME; his special nephews Alex King and his wife Darla, Stanley King and his wife Bonnie, Brent King and his wife Debbie and their families; his stepsons Wayne Ayotte and his wife Ann Mare of Villages, FL, and Ronald Ayotte of Kensington and his step grandchildren Sarah, Christopher, Kevin and Michelle. Galen's funeral services will take place privately. Duksa Family Funeral Homes at Newington Memorial is serving the family. To share a memory please visit us at www.duksa.net.



Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Tsarfaty, Abraham

Abraham (Abe) Tsarfaty, age 87, formerly of Port Saint Lucie, FL, West Hartford, CT and Tel Aviv Israel, passed away on Tuesday, December 21, 2021. Cherished son of the late Joseph and Leah (Yosha) Tsarfaty of Monastir (Bitola) Macedonia. Loving father of Eyal Tsarfaty and his wife, Marisol of Jacksonville, FL. and Vered Tsarfaty and her husband, Donald Verrecchia of Wayland, MA and the late Lilit (Hila) Hazan. Beloved Grandfather of Tal Meron, Eli Hazan, Liat Tsarfaty, Sarit Arman and Ian Verrecchia. Dear brother of Moshe, Shmuel, Yakov and the late Rachel Yosha and Haim. Abraham also leaves behind nine great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews.

Abe was born in 1934 in Jerusalem and grew up in Tel Aviv where he served in the Israeli army and worked as an electrician for many years. He moved to the United States in 1965 with a fourth-grade education and a desire to live the American dream. By the late 1970s he owned his own retail clothing store (Abe's Fashions) which became a shopping destination for local families in downtown Hartford. In the 1990s he retired to Port St. Lucie, FL and most recently moved back north to Massachusetts to be closer to his children.

Graveside services will be held at the Roxbury Mutual Cemetery, 19 Washington Street, Woburn, MA on Monday, December 27th at 11:00AM. Shiva to be announced. Attendees at the service and shiva must be masked.

In lieu of flowers, tribute remembrances may be made in memory of Abe to the Alzheimer's Association at <https://alz.org/donate>.

Service under the direction of the Levine Chapel 470 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 617-277-8300

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

Wasiele, Loretta K.



Loretta Kathryn Anderson Wasiele (Clarence and Cecilia Aylward Anderson) November 19, 1926 to December 16, 2021 Business woman, Wife, Mother, Grandmother, Great Grandmother. Loretta was a child of the Great Depression in Brainerd and Minneapolis, Minnesota which shaped her determination and stoked

her drive in life. What it didn't do was hold her back. Minnesota winters gave her an appreciation of the sound of newly fallen snow crunching under foot, something that stayed with her all of her 95 years. Loretta put herself through school, then with a team of 4 women opened a new office for her company in Chicago where she met the love of her life, Harry Wasiele, Jr. She was definitely the woman behind the man. After marrying Harry in 1948, the two would work their day jobs then moonlight in the family restaurant business assisting the older generation in the then famous Chicago area Country House Restaurant. As time passed they turned in their aprons with Harry continuing in sales and Loretta a first time mom. In the evenings Harry would draft business proposals and Loretta would type them in duplicate on her Royal typewriter when duplicate meant carbon copies on onion paper. This after the home cooked supper and the first 2 kids were tucked into bed in suburban Arlington Heights. Time marched on, the team work paid off with better sales territories in new locations, new homes in new states; Michigan, Pennsylvania. The family grew from 2 in the early 50s to 4 in the late 50s. Loretta became the all round mom, running to scouts, swimming lessons, school plays, baseball and basket ball practices and games. Managing the family calendar was a full time job. Then sales territories became management, entertaining was added to the calendar as was a move to Connecticut. The life of a corporate wife was added to Loretta's routine. Harry was promoted to company President and CEO and Loretta was rewarded with all the wifely responsibilities that came with that job. Loretta exuded beauty, grace and hospitality, as if born to the challenge. All the while she was the eminent mother and counselor to her husband and 4 children spanning a decade in ages. Loretta saw all of her children through college, rewarding careers, marry and begin lives of their own, always there with loving support and Midwestern wisdom. Yet another home was added, this time a vacation one on beautiful Nantucket Sound on Cape Cod where the growing family would return for many gatherings. She and Harry retired to a snow bird life in South Florida and later to Georgia to be closer to family. They were living with their son Mark and his family when in 2016 Harry passed and she continued to make her home there. The Wasiele siblings will forever be grateful for the love and devotion that Mark, Kristine, Matt, Kate and J.T. showed our parents and the loving care they gave them so that they could live together under their roof in their final years. All of Loretta's family and close friends joined in her 95th birthday celebration both actually and virtually in November to share the love of an extraordinary life. Unexpectedly, as if her work here was done, five years and a day after losing her life mate, our Mom received her richest reward when she called Mark to her side, shared a final message, squeezed his hand and close her eyes for the last time, finally getting her ultimate wish, to be rejoined with the love of her life. Loretta leaves her 4 adult children: Kathleen Wasiele Bach (Louis C.), Brian D. Wasiele (Paula), Larry S. Wasiele (Laurie), Mark T. Wasiele (Kristine); 9 grandchildren: Louis W. (Caitlin), Kathryn (John Clinton IV), Bradley (Christie), Victoria (Joseph), Shelby, Anthony, Matthew, Katherine, J.T.; and 6 great grandchildren: Joslyn, Loretta, Eva, John Clinton V, Brinley and Cayden. A Mass of Christian Burial and Internment will take place at All Saints Cemetery in Chicago, our hometown, where the family will gather to honor our parent at a later date. A Roman Catholic funeral mass will be held in the coming months. Online condolences may be sent by visiting www.billheadfuneralhome.com. Bill Head Funeral Homes & Crematory Duluth Chapel (770)476-2535.

Please sign guestbook at courant.com/obituaries

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory Of
ROLAND J COLLIN



5/26/1947 - 3/11/2019



Roland, Rob, Bryan, Greg, Tim and I miss and love you very much. I am always thinking about our memories and the wonderful life you gave me and the boys. Always loved, never forgotten.
Love always & Forever, Joanne

In Loving Memory Of
JOSEPH GUERRERA



02/18/1935-12/24/2017

Merry Christmas Pop! We miss you very much, The holidays are not the same without you.
Your loving Family

In Loving Memory Of
SUZANNE M. LEONE



11/5/1968-12/24/1991

As we walk the path of life
Our journey here on earth
Is hard to understand yet we continue the search
A path with many tears now 30 years
Somedays still bring us sorrow
In our hearts we love you and forever always will
Mom, Dad, Rich, Lisa and Rudy

Everyone leaves a legacy.
Celebrate an extraordinary
life by creating an enduring
Life Story on Legacy.com
with biography, photos,
eulogies, letters and
cherished mementoes.



For more information,
visit the obituary section
on courant.com to share
memories of loved ones.



Stories
live on.
Tell theirs.
Share your loved
one's story.

placeanad.courant.com/obituaries



In partnership with
Legacy.com®

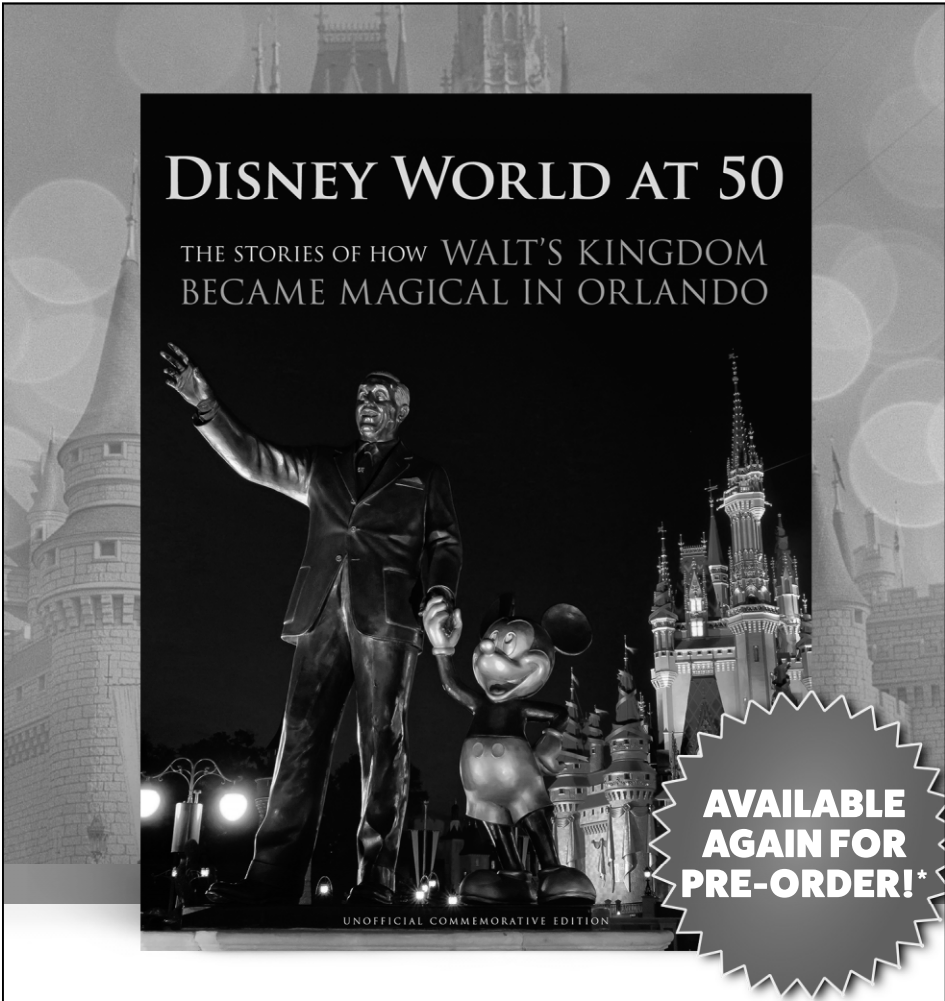
Stories live on.
Tell theirs.

Share your loved one's story.
placeanad.courant.com/obituaries



In partnership with
Legacy.com





Disney World at 50

Celebrate the rich and fascinating history of Disney World with this stunning retrospective, featuring original coverage and over 100 photos from our archives.



Shop now at
tribpub.com/disneybook
or call (866) 545-3534

**Available for pre-order only.
Books will begin to ship on or before 2/28/22.*



Remember the Time

Commemorate a historic day or a special moment in your own life with a page print from our archives.



Shop now at
courant.com/moment
or call (866) 545-3534



“Early detection gave us more time to find information and support together.”

If you’re noticing changes, it could be Alzheimer’s. Talk about visiting a doctor together.

ALZ.org/TimeToTalk



ADUs may offer affordable housing option

Concept of these accessory dwelling units is catching on

By Lisa Prevost
The New York Times

The two buildings going up on a corner on Linden Lane in Princeton, New Jersey, are part of an experiment. They share a 0.19-acre single-family lot but are entirely separate, except for a shared carport between them. The larger, a 2,300-square-foot, four-bedroom house, is listed for \$1.295 million. The other one, a 1,400-square-foot, two-bedroom home, is what’s known as an accessory dwelling unit, or ADU. It is listed, on its own, for \$849,000, a rarity in an affluent town where the median sale price hovers around \$1 million.

“You tell someone that \$800,000 is affordable, and they will look at you like you’re crazy,” said the builder, Daniel Barsky, an owner of R.B. Homes. “But in Princeton, it’s affordable, particularly for new construction.”

Barsky and his father, Roman Barsky, are the first builders to take full advantage of Princeton’s relatively new ADU ordinance, one of the most progressive in the region, to create what amounts to affordable housing there. But while this community of roughly 30,000 residents is ahead of the curve, it is not alone: The concept is beginning to catch on elsewhere in the New York metro area. Connecticut passed a law this year allowing ADUs in all single-family zones, and a coalition in New York is working to build support for similar legislation.

ADUs — defined as accessories to an existing home, either as an attached apartment or as a smaller, detached dwelling — are typically rental units. But Princeton has gone a step further in allowing them to be sold separately from the primary residence as condominiums. The town’s ordinance was shaped in part by a lawsuit filed by Marina Rubina, a political activist and the architect who designed the project on Linden Lane.

“We really are the guinea pig” in the New York metro area, said Mia Sacks, a Princeton councilwoman and an advocate of the new ordinance.

Proponents of ADUs say they are a smart way to supply the so-called missing middle price range of housing. They can also generate rental income for



While Princeton, New Jersey, is ahead of the curve on ADUs, it is not alone. **TONY CENICOLA/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

seniors struggling to afford to stay in their homes, and make communities more economically and racially inclusive. That makes them highly suitable for Princeton, where “our zoning has made us a gated community,” Sacks said.

But how well they will fit in remains to be seen. The Linden Lane project is raising a lot of eyebrows. Derek Bridger, the zoning officer, said he has fielded a number of calls from residents wanting to know how it is possible to build two homes on a single lot.

“People were kind of startled by it,” Bridger said, but “the current council is very proactive in trying to establish new housing opportunities. There’s no land left, so it’s challenging.”

The rise of the ADU

Earlier forms of the ADU, known as granny flats or in-law apartments, were relatively common before World War II. But postwar suburban zoning created barriers to such housing in favor of single-family homes. Now ADUs are

again rising in popularity in high-growth, high-cost areas like Seattle; Los Angeles; Austin, Texas; and Portland, Oregon, as policymakers loosen zoning constraints to encourage their development.

From a social equity standpoint, ADUs can provide a housing option in neighborhoods that might not otherwise be accessible to lower-income households or people who want to age in place, said Phil Abramson, founder and chief executive of Topology, a professional planning firm in Newark.

But there can be considerable tension around the idea of making a second dwelling a permitted use in a single-family neighborhood, he said. “Then the question is, are we taking away the single-family zoning?”

What’s in the works

In Maplewood, New Jersey, officials found that residents were receptive to the idea of ADUs when an ordinance was proposed last year. The first version

allowed only seniors to create or live in an ADU, said Dean Dafis, deputy mayor. But after social justice advocates objected, saying the opportunity should be open to all, the ordinance was amended.

“We were surprised; we thought this was going to be controversial,” Dafis said. “And then we were sort of blindsided by the interest.”

Connecticut’s new law permits ADUs in all single-family zones as of right — meaning no public hearing or special permit is required to build them. While many Connecticut towns already allowed accessory apartments, Desegregate Connecticut, the housing coalition that proposed the legislation, found that the restrictions varied widely and were often onerous. The new law removes some of the barriers but also includes an opt-out provision: Municipalities may choose not to comply if their zoning commissions and municipal legislative bodies vote accordingly before January 2023.

The legislation proposed in New York would legalize ADUs statewide. It calls for the creation of a lending program to help low- and moderate-income homeowners secure financing to add an ADU or bring an existing unit up to code. The legislation is still being tweaked, to address concerns around the size of units, parking and other issues, said state Sen. Peter Harkham, a lead sponsor.

In Princeton, council members are already talking about revisiting the terms of their ordinance. Sacks said the ADU on Linden Lane designed by Rubina, while legal under the ordinance, is “larger and more expensive than is ideal for what we would like to accomplish.”

Aging in place

The AARP is a big supporter of ADUs. “We know from our surveys that well over three-quarters of people over 50 want to age in place at home in their community, but less than half think they will be able to,” said

Danielle Arigoni, director of the AARP’s Livable Communities program. “They don’t see viable housing solutions when they look around them. ADUs are a really elegant solution to diversifying the choices that people have in housing.”

Of course, the cost of building ADUs is another matter. The Federal Housing Finance Agency is weighing updates to its policies to make it easier to finance the construction of ADUs.

At a recent listening session held by the agency, Mike Hernandez, vice president of engagement and impact for Fannie Mae, the mortgage financing giant, said it was working with lenders to lower the cost of mortgages for homes with ADUs; was helping homeowners pay for the construction of ADUs using HomeStyle Renovation loans; and was testing the use of cash-out refinancing to pay off second mortgages and construction loans used to finance the building of ADUs.

Solid demand, backlog of home orders favors builders in 2022

By Alex Veiga
Associated Press

U.S. homebuilder stocks have outpaced the broader market this year, and analysts are bullish on the prospects for more gains in 2022, despite expectations of continued supply chain woes.

The SPDR S&P Homebuilders exchange-traded fund is up 45% this year. Two of the biggest builders by homes sold, D.R. Horton and Lennar, are up about 52% and 46%, respectively. The benchmark S&P 500 index is on pace for a 23% gain.

The strong gains reflect investors’ confidence in builders’ prospects for capitalizing on a red-hot U.S. housing market that is underpinned by strong demand, still-low mortgage rates and a shortage of homes on the market.

Meanwhile, the supply chain bottlenecks have led

big builders to build up a backlog of home orders that they won’t be able to deliver until next year.

“Early returns from the winter suggest reasonable order strength thus far, which bodes well for the 2022 spring selling season,” BTIG homebuilding analyst Carl Reichardt wrote in a research note. He recently raised his 2022 earnings per share estimates for most of the 12 homebuilders he tracks, including KB Home and Lennar, citing expectations that builders will benefit from more sales next year.

The biggest problem homebuilders had in 2021 was being able to build homes fast enough to meet the demand during one of the hottest housing markets in decades.

The global supply chain disruptions, rising inflation and a shortage of skilled labor, led to construction delays and uncertainty that

forced many big builders to pump the brakes on the number of homes they put up for sale. As a result, many builders have seen their backlog of home orders they have yet to deliver on swell.

The dynamic has helped dampen sales of new U.S. homes in 2021. In October, new home sales hit a seasonally adjusted annual pace of 795,000, down 23% from a year earlier. In contrast, sales of previously occupied U.S. homes through the first 10 months of this year were up 11% from where they were in 2020, on pace for at least 6 million home sold, which would be the highest number in 15 years.

“If there were no supply chain and no labor shortages we would be growing by double digits in terms of housing construction,” said Ali Wolf, chief economist at Zonda Economics, a real estate industry tracker.

“Builders would sell more if they had more.”

Builders are still dealing with supply chain bottlenecks and higher prices for garage doors, windows, plumbing fixtures and other building materials.

During a recent conference call with analysts, builder Taylor Morrison Home said it continues to see random building product shortages across the country and anticipates they may continue next year.

Lumber futures prices soared to an all-time high \$1,670.50 per thousand board feet in May, a twofold increase from a year earlier, reflecting strong demand for new construction and home remodeling, and pandemic-related problems limiting production. It then dropped to \$456.20 in August, but has been surging since and is now back above \$1,100, according to FactSet.



MATT ROURKE/AP

Still, the housing market demand trends, especially the low inventory of homes for sale, bode well for builders heading into next year.

Homes nationally are selling within days of being put up for sale. In October, more than 80% of previously occupied U.S. homes sold after being on the market for less than a month.

“I don’t know how that changes in the near future, so it probably gives homebuilders maybe an extra

shot or two on goal with getting buyers that they haven’t had in years past,” said Jay McCanless, a housing analyst at Wedbush Securities.

That’s one reason the analyst is bullish on more stock price gains for the 14 homebuilders he tracks.

“I’m very comfortable and optimistic with the group heading into next year,” he said. “And certainly our price target suggests there’s room for growth above the current prices.”

Newlyweds find dark heart of ‘Nightmare Alley’

Del Toro veers into new territory with co-writer Morgan

By Mark Olsen
Los Angeles Times

Filmmaker Guillermo del Toro’s last movie, “The Shape of Water,” was a box-office hit that won four Academy Awards, including director and best picture. The film was a delicate, delightfully weird love story between a cleaning woman and a fish-man kept at a top-secret government facility. His follow-up, “Nightmare Alley,” is a bleak tale of carnies, grifters and a dishonest society that creates a far more despairing portrait of the world.

With a similar visual style to Del Toro’s previous work, beautifully lit and finely crafted, “Nightmare Alley” steers the veteran filmmaker into new territory. The departure includes the fact that Del Toro co-wrote the screenplay with film journalist and historian (and new wife) Kim Morgan.

“When ‘Shape of Water’ came, it was responding to a completely different series of impulses,” said Del Toro. “But by the end of that campaign and at the end of the process with the movie, the world was in an almost epistemological crisis about truth and lies and populist discourse and how to distinguish a system of reality that just reinforces what you believe and that doesn’t challenge you into seeing the world. And these were things that were very heavy.”

Del Toro acknowledged that this more serious frame of mind set the stage for “Nightmare Alley.”

In the film, Bradley Cooper plays Stanton Carlisle, a drifter on the run from a mysterious past who falls in with a traveling carnival. He makes himself a fast study of the work of the mentalist Zeena (Toni Collette) and her husband, Pete Krumbein (David



Guillermo del Toro and Kim Morgan attend the premiere of “Nightmare Alley” on Dec. 1 in New York. EVAN AGOSTINI/INVISION

Strathairn), picking up the tricks of their trade. He takes off with another carnival performer, Molly (Rooney Mara), and starts his own act, finding success at big city nightclubs. With the aid of a shady psychoanalyst, Dr. Lilith Ritter (Cate Blanchett), he begins to fleece powerful local swells for money. He eventually crosses paths with the fearsome tycoon Ezra Grindle (Richard Jenkins), and then Stanton’s plans begin to falter, leading to a desperate end.

The film is adapted from the 1946 novel by William Lindsay Gresham that was previously made into the 1947 film directed by Edmund Goulding and starring Tyrone Power. Set in the late 1930s to early 1940s, Del Toro’s version shifts hard from the dusty, ramshackle world of the carnies, honest about their dishonesty and who they

really are, to the sleek society world of the city where no one is as they seem and everyone is out only for themselves. Whether through tarot readings, sideshow mentalism or psychoanalysis, “Nightmare Alley” frequently reaches toward the unknowable.

Del Toro encountered the book before seeing the original movie, while Morgan recalls seeing the movie and then reading the book at about the same time.

“I was certain there could be another version because after I read the book and then I saw the movie and I thought, ‘OK, this is definitely oriented to the genre. And I think you can do a different take on the material.’ We ended up doing what I think is a character study.”

Del Toro and Morgan were married earlier in

2021.

The filmmaker had ended his marriage of more than 30 years to Lorenza Newton in September 2017, around when “The Shape of Water” was being released. Morgan had previously been married to the Canadian filmmaker Guy Maddin. The two of them went public as a couple when they appeared together at the Academy Awards in 2018 when Del Toro was there for “The Shape of Water.” They had been looking to find a project to work on together when they landed on “Nightmare Alley.”

“We were already together, and we were already looking for something because we wanted, I guess, to venture into a creative endeavor together,” said Del Toro. “And we not only did it, but survived that, the shoot and the pandemic. And we

said, ‘I think we’re ready to marry.’”

The two began the process of the adaptation with their enthusiasm for the ending — “We agreed the ending was the North Star,” said Del Toro — and then working their way backward through the story.

“I felt like the novel, a lot of it was about fear,” said Morgan. “I was so interested in William Lindsay Gresham. One of the reasons I became really interested in this project was that when we both read the novel again, we both really went into a deep dive to learn more about him. There’s not a definitive biography on him, but we learned so much about him.”

The novel of “Nightmare Alley” was a success, one that Gresham would never match, even as he published other books.

Having been diagnosed with cancer, he would take his own life in 1962.

“We also felt this was very timeless, the novel,” Del Toro said. “The novel is so absolutely an indictment of the American dream, the capitalist ideals.”

Morgan was on set for most of production to contribute new ideas as needed. And also because, as Del Toro put it, “We created the screenplay together. She would be watching the director ... with our work and say, ‘Hey, that’s important. Can we preserve it?’”

“Which was nice,” Morgan said. “Because, you know, writers aren’t usually on the set.”

Del Toro jokingly said that they two of them “became a two-headed monster” as they were working on the project.

First, they transcribed all the dialogue from the original novel.

Then they worked separately, trading pages back and forth and editing each other’s work until they came together to write side-by-side.

For a relatively new couple, to spend their time submerging themselves in Stanton Carlisle’s dark despair might seem an uncomfortable place to be.

“There is something when you’re looking at such dark material, it is good to talk about these things,” said Morgan. “So it’s good to open up and share your fears and share things that you relate to and to see the humanity in Stanton. We sort of merged it with William Lindsay Gresham, with our own lives and with people that we’ve known.”

“As an artist, you feel there is a possibility that there is a tyranny of nice. Nice can become as oppressive as anything else,” said Del Toro. “And you just convulse. We are, after all, reacting to what’s in the atmosphere, and sometimes you react with a poem, and sometimes you react with a gut punch.”

CELEBRITIES

Bateman gets Hasty Pudding award

From news services

Jason Bateman was named the 2022 Man of the Year by Harvard University’s Hasty Pudding Theatricals on Thursday, the first recipient of the award since 2020 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Bateman, an actor, producer and director on the Netflix series “Ozark,” who also played a starring role in “Arrested Development,” will be given his pudding pot at a roast Feb. 3, the theater troupe said in a statement.

“We are stoked to present Jason Bateman with the 55th annual Hasty Pudding Man of the Year award. It’s been a hot minute since we’ve handed one of these out, so we figured we’d give it to the guy who all our moms have crushes on after watching ‘Ozark,’” organization President Nick Amador said.

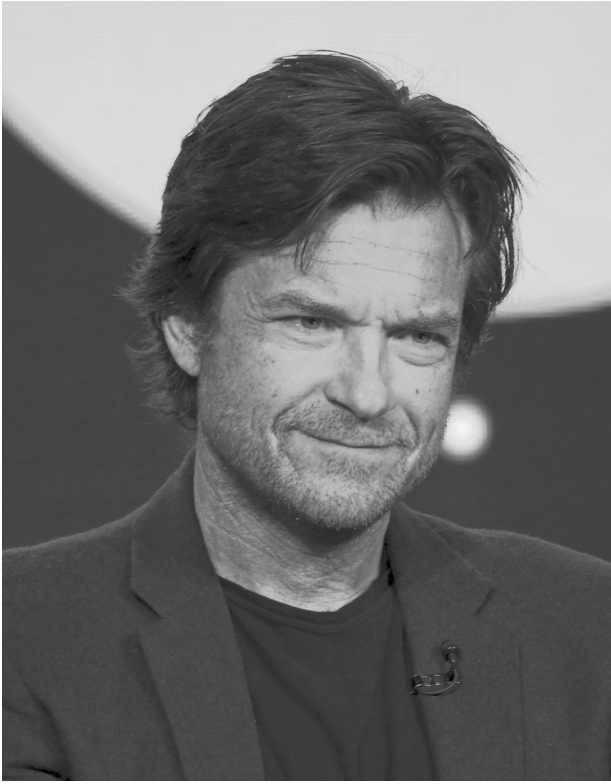
The last Man of the Year was Ben Platt in 2020. Past recipients include Clint Eastwood, Tom Hanks, Robert De Niro and Samuel L. Jackson.

The Man of the Year Award has been handed out since 1967. Hasty Pudding’s Woman of the Year Award was established in 1951. The 2022 Woman of the Year has not been announced yet.

The awards are given out to people who have made lasting and impressive contributions to the world of entertainment.

Coldplay will stop making music in 2025: Coldplay is set to stop making music in 2025, lead singer Chris Martin has confirmed.

The vocalist made the announcement during a pre-recorded BBC radio show. Although the show is set to broadcast Thursday evening, a clip in which Martin confirmed the band’s retirement was trailed on the BBC during a



Jason Bateman has been named Man of the Year by Hasty Pudding Theatricals. WILLY SANJUAN/INVISION/AP 2020

separate Radio 2 breakfast show earlier in the day.

“Will there come a time when Coldplay stop?” host Jo Whaley asked Martin in the clip.

“Well, I know — I can tell you,” he replied haltingly. “We’re going to do — I think we have 3 more — our last proper record will come out at the end of 2025. And I think after that we’ll only tour — and maybe we’ll do some sort of collaborative things or... — but the Coldplay catalogue as it were finishes then.”

Composed of Chris Martin, Jonny Buckland, Guy Berryman and Will Champion, Coldplay was formed in London, U.K., in 1996 and have altogether released nine albums.

Sheeran breaks Spotify record: On Wednesday, Ed Sheeran’s “Shape of You,” the first single from his third studio album, “÷”, became the first song to reach three billion streams

on Spotify.

While the songs with a billion-plus streams aren’t that uncommon, three billion is a first.

Sheeran posted a video on Instagram talking about it.

“[‘Shape Of You’] Wasn’t really meant to make the album,” he says, “but when I finished making the song, Ben Cook, from my label, said it had to be a single — but I wanted ‘Castle on the Hill’ to be the single. We put both songs out at once and ... I was wrong. Here we are with ‘Shape of You’ at 3 billion.”

Dec. 24 birthdays: Actor Clarence Gilyard is 66. Actor Stephanie Hodge is 65. Actor Wade Williams is 60. Actor Diedrich Bader is 55. Actor Amaury Nolasco is 51. Singer Ricky Martin is 50. Author Stephanie Meyer is 48. TV host Ryan Seacrest is 47. Actor Michael Raymond-James is 44. Singer Louis Tomlinson is 30.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson

askamy@amydickinson.com [Twitter@askingamy](https://twitter.com/askingamy)

Father-in-law wants to hear his name said

Dear Amy: This little thing has nagged me for many years. My son has had two marriages ... both of his wives have never felt comfortable calling me “Dad,” or by my first name. Instead, they have called me “Grampa” in text messages, and even when we’re together.

Or, when the grandkids are not around, my daughter-in-law might say, “Oh, what your Dad said was funny” — never using my name!

What happened today was the last straw: In a group text message with my wife and me, our two kids and their spouses, the daughter-in-law wrote: “Thanks Grampa and Gramma for babysitting for us!”

I just wanted to fire back “You’re welcome, Mother of the Grandkids!”

My wife, who also is addressed this way, doesn’t think it is a big deal.

I have mentioned it to my son, but that has made no difference.

Otherwise, I have a great relationship with her. Would it be OK for me to talk to her and say, “When the kids are not around, can you please call me by my first name, or ‘Dad?’”

— *Say My Name in Florida*

Dear Say My Name: I know of younger generation in-laws who never address their elder parents-in-law by any specific name, because they’ve never had any direction from the elder and are too timid to ask. Many people don’t feel comfortable calling their in-laws “Mom and Dad,” because they already have parents they address this way.

When the grandchildren come along, the elder finally has a real designation: “Grandpa.”

You don’t mention how your son addresses his parents-in-law. This might provide some insight.

My point is that your daughter-in-law won’t know that this bothers you if you aren’t brave enough to gently tell her.

So, you say, “This might sound like a minor thing, but would you mind calling me by my first name? I am cool being ‘Grandpa’ when we’re with the kids or referring to the kids, but otherwise I’d love it if you would just call me ‘Dave.’ Are you OK with that?”

Dear Amy: I’ve recently become good friends with a woman and have begun to develop romantic feelings for her. We have spent a great deal of one-on-one time together, and on more than one occasion, we have shared moments that have led me to believe that the feeling might be mutual; eye contact, flirtatious language, and at one point, she admitted that she found me physically attractive.

There’s just one catch: she is in a long-distance relationship with another man. I respect her right to date whoever she wants and don’t want to make things weird by pushing the issue, but whenever we’re together, I feel a pull of attraction.

I’m afraid if this continues, one of us may cross an ethical line. I’d be happy to make a move if she broke up with her boyfriend, but that isn’t my call to make.

Is she waiting for me to say something? Or just using me as a distraction

because she’s lonely?

How do I maintain this friendship without ruling out the possibility that there could be more?

I fear that if this goes on much longer, I’m going to have to say something or begin to distance myself from the situation. What’s the right move here?

— *Smitten*

Dear Smitten: The right move is to talk! “Are you waiting for me to say something?” “Am I reading too much into this attraction?”

If your conversation progresses and she expresses interest in you, I hope you will make sure she knows that you are not willing to date her while she is involved with someone else. I suspect she will find this ethical stand of yours refreshing — and attractive.

Dear Amy: I really identified with the situation described by “The Wedding Singer.” Like this singer, I too became paralyzed by stage fright.

I was relieved to learn that this is common, even among experienced professionals.

— *Relieved*

Dear Relieved: Adele famously suffers from performance anxiety. I read that she has given herself an alter ego: “Sasha Carter” (honoring Beyonce and June Carter).

Before performances, Adele lets Sasha take over, because Sasha doesn’t know fear.

Copyright 2021 by Amy Dickinson

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

DiCaprio and McKay dare you to look up

New Netflix film an end-of-the-world satire about comet

By Lindsey Bahr
Associated Press

Leonardo DiCaprio has been an outspoken environmental advocate for as long as he's been famous. But while he's produced documentaries, contributed millions to the cause through his foundation, sat on several relevant boards and even used his Oscar speech to talk about climate change, the topic has never overlapped with his acting work.

It wasn't for lack of trying: He just couldn't find the right fit. And, more importantly, he didn't want to do the wrong thing either.

Then Adam McKay ("The Big Short") came knocking with an idea he'd been developing with journalist David Sirota: What if it wasn't explicitly about climate change, but a comet? That DiCaprio found interesting.

The result is "Don't Look Up," a star-studded end-of-the-world satire hitting Netflix on Dec. 24. DiCaprio and Jennifer Lawrence play scientists who discover the extinction level comet and ... no one cares. McKay and DiCaprio spoke about the film and trying to entertain and get a message through without alienating too many people.

Q: Leo, how did you decide this was the one?

D: The brilliance of this screenplay is the analogy of making it a comet that is going to wipe out mankind within a six-month time-frame created this massive sense of urgency, rather than some slow-moving climate behemoth narrative. It really came at this specific moment in time, like films like "Network" or "Dr. Strangelove," that really encapsulates what we're going through as a culture. It perfectly held a mirror to our society



Leonardo DiCaprio stars in "Don't Look Up," now streaming on Netflix. **NETFLIX**

and how we deal with the climate crisis, that we just let it continue and don't take the actions that we need to take in order to survive on this planet.

Q: I read that you two spent five months going over the script.

M: There's nothing I love more than having my script or a cut of the movie challenged in a thoughtful way. Leo came in the edit, too, and I would show him unfinished cuts. He gave terrific notes. The guy's worked with some of the great directors of all time, you know, Scorsese and Tarantino, these grandmasters, and he knows a thing or two about story and film.

Q: Do you remember any big debates from these sessions?

D: My motivation was (to) give a voice to the scientific community, to the people who've been devoting their life to the climate crisis and how their voice feels marginalized. I'm much more literal about a lot of these things. I wanted to bring politics and specificity and direct linkage to climate in a lot of these speeches that we did. It was amazing to be able to have a partner like Adam in that process who kept on stripping away specifics that would make certain people

that are in the audience feel alienated, that made it political.

M: It's interesting, some of the words that Leo and I would debate, like the word "fact." You want to just say facts. And I was like, "Leo, I hate to break it to you, I think they politicized the word fact." So there was this constant vigilance over what words we were using. We just tried to stay out of the nonsense, the talking points, the focus groups, the clicks, the ratings.

D: As soon as we stripped away a lot of those words, too, it just made it more human.

Q: Was it cathartic,

getting to yell into the void in a way in a "mad as hell"-style speech?

D: Well, look, I'm not a climate scientist, but I tried my best to think of a lot of these people in their frustration.

Q: Randall and his Midwestern unassum- ingness is pretty different from other characters you've played.

D: It was a fascinating journey because, yeah, I'm in scenarios wherein a Jonah Hill or a Meryl Streep is attacking me and I had to constantly swallow things that I wanted to say on a personal level and just bite the bullet and

take the insult and the kick in the nuts. Even when Ariana Grande says what she says to me, I had to fight that instinct. It was a very, very unique experiment in patience and sitting in discomfort, which is something that I love in movies, if, when done correctly, when you can make the audience feel uncomfortable for you as a character. I think back to "King of Comedy" or "Taxi Driver." It's a hard thing to pull off. I don't know if I did it or not, but that's what I was definitely aiming for.

M: I mean, I loved it. I just thought it was so cool to see a guy who you've seen like, fight a bear in like giant sprawling epics and lead of the biggest movie ever made and to see him having a panic attack or having to take a quarter of a Xanax and getting run over by this fame.

Q: What have you thought of audience responses so far? Are people getting what you hoped from it?

M: The big thing was that we wanted to make it funny. I would see the crowd laughing through the whole movie and then I would look at the cards (at test screenings), and it almost seemed to defy people who would identify as conservative, liberal and that was very heartening to me. There was always going to be a couple of people that are mad about something.

D: You never know ultimately how a movie will impact a mass audience, but a little test case for that: I have very liberal hippie parents that walked out of that theater, both my mother and my stepmother went to the premiere, and be like, "I've got to tell you, I really identified with a lot of the characters in that movie. I mean, I was thinking about some of my actions. I was thinking, am I like Meryl Streep?"

M: No! Are you serious?

D: I'm like, "Mom, you're nothing like that character."



Tyler James Williams as Gregory Eddie in ABC's "Abbott Elementary." **PRASHANT GUPTA/ABC**

‘Abbott Elementary’ teaches harsh life lessons in inner city

By Kate Feldman
New York Daily News

The fake school bells on the set of his new show send Tyler James Williams back to elementary school in Yonkers. This time, though, he's on the other side of the desk.

Williams, the son of a former NYPD sergeant, stars as new teacher Gregory Eddie in "Abbott Elementary," a warm-hearted sitcom about struggling teachers at an inner-city elementary school in Philadelphia that recently premiered on ABC.

Portraying a teacher helped Williams build a good rapport with the young actors playing his students — and a new appreciation for his own teachers while growing up.

"The relationship that you find that you build with the kids, I found myself reevaluating the relationships my teachers must have built with the very creative and sometimes hard-to-focus child that I was myself," said Williams, 29, a former child actor who starred in "Everybody Hates Chris" when he was a teen.

"I don't have any kids so I don't interact with children this much on a daily basis. It's wild to see how quickly you become attached, and you feel responsible for the period of their life that you have them and guiding and helping along their journey."

"Abbott Elementary" doesn't have the luxuries. It barely even has the basics — in the pilot, Janine (creator Quinta Brunson) has to go viral on TikTok just to raise enough money to buy a new rug for her classroom.

None of this is easy, especially for Greg, who thought he would jump right into a school as a principal. His learning curve is figuring out his path along his new road.

It's not all doom and gloom and homework, though. The sitcom finds heart and humor in the resilience of its teachers despite a tone-deaf principal (Janelle James) who doesn't actually seem to care. The veterans (Sheryl Lee Ralph and Lisa Ann Walter) have created a system to get by, while Janine, not yet defeated by reality, still fights for more.

"One of the hardest-working people in America is the inner-city schoolteacher who's underfunded, who can't have enough time ... to prep and teach and referee and be a moral compass for these kids in an atmosphere where they're so inundated with stimuli in a great city," Williams said.

"It's got to be somewhere in the budget. We can always find the money to go to war, we can always find the money to run these huge political campaigns, we can find the money for anything, but we can't find the money to educate the next generation of U.S. citizens?"

Williams, whose last in-person schooling was sixth grade before he left to pursue acting, hopes his new comedy series can help send a serious message about the poor state of the country's public education system.

"If this show can move the needle a little bit and get us closer to a reasonable funding package for teachers and educators in public schools around the country, then we did something other than just make you laugh," he said.

HOROSCOPES

Tarot.com

Aries (March 21-April 19): It's important not to leave people hanging, but that can be rather difficult when work demands your attention. You might not even see any potential problem coming until its staring you in the face. Be honest about your needs.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): An unfamiliar, tense energy could cause friction in your career, Taurus. If you've been feeling pressured lately, be sure to take some time to yourself. You could crack when least expected with a reaction that's larger than life! If you feel a meltdown coming, make an effort to vent privately.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): Today might be the kind of day when it feels like you have almost no control over any aspect of your life, which is hardly a pleasant thing. Figure out which way you're going. Your peers might push you along despite your protests. Even if it's not easy, do your best to set limits for yourself.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): You may feel unreasonable. Even if you'd prefer to be alone, it's entirely possible that way too many people will ignore your attempts to withdraw and instead bang on your door and demand your attention. You're going to have to assert some boundaries.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): People and professional matters are going to be front and center today, but trying to figure out which to deal with first won't be simple. You could wind up feeling stretched very thin. A loved one may not be thrilled. Make your position clear, especially if you don't have control over it.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A wonderful opportunity for you to get out and explore the world might emerge. Normally this should be a positive thing. Work demands that you take care of some things you may have been putting off. Any exciting plans might have to wait — you can chill out once you've checked any necessary boxes.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Opening up to others may be difficult at the moment, even if it feels like what the universe wants you to do. Your creativity is asking you to show up for yourself. You might feel like hiding away from people and tending to your own needs. It's OK to be on your own for now, but step up sooner rather than later.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): People could bring some very unexpected moments your way very soon. While you might normally be open to this, today the attention could be anything but desirable! Don't be shocked if your buttons seem more exposed than usual.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're likely to be very busy today! Focus on more serious matters and leave casual tasks for another day. No matter how confusing things feel, being judicious about how you spend your time and can let you make it through this complicated alignment with flying colors.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Some exciting options might appear on your plate today — especially in comparison to the more measured opportunities you may have encountered lately through your financial sector. Get serious about your finances. If you can postpone work then go for it, but don't leave necessary things for too long.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You aren't exactly known for being the most emotional — whether or not you're usually like that, there isn't anything necessarily wrong with it. Right now any hard-minded behavior might rub someone else the wrong way. A family member or close friend could require a bit of TLC.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You could surprise yourself today. Some things might pop out of your mouth that you've been trying to keep other people from hearing. Think of yourself like the cork in a bottle — careless actions might create a mess that could affect other people.

TODAY IN HISTORY

Associated Press

On Dec. 24, 1524, Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama died in Cochin, India.

In 1809, legendary frontiersman Christopher "Kit" Carson was born.

In 1851, fire devastated the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., destroying about 35,000 volumes.

In 1906, physicist Reginald A. Fessenden became the first person to transmit the human voice over radio.

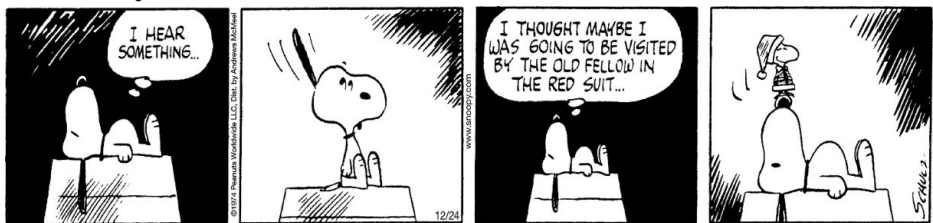
In 1913, 73 people, most of them children, died in a crush of panic after a false cry of "Fire!" during a Christmas party for strik-

ing miners and their families at the Italian Hall in Calumet, Michigan.

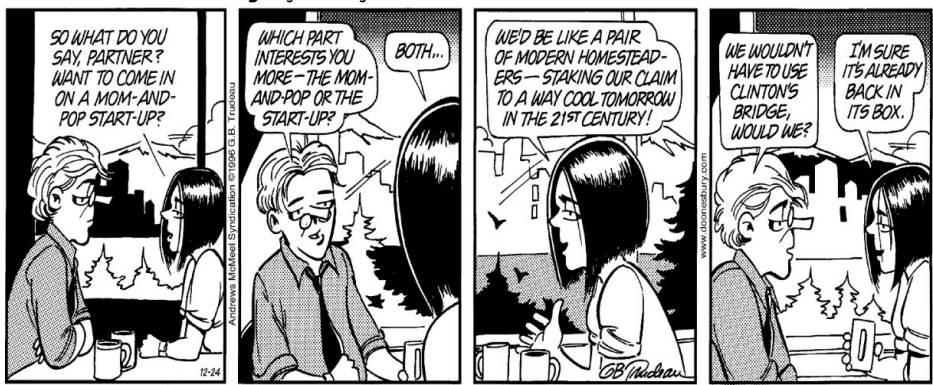
In 1968, the Apollo 8 astronauts, orbiting the moon, read passages from the Old Testament Book of Genesis during a Christmas Eve telecast.

In 2020, California became the first state to record 2 million confirmed coronavirus cases.

Peanuts By Charles M. Schulz



Classic Doonesbury By Garry Trudeau



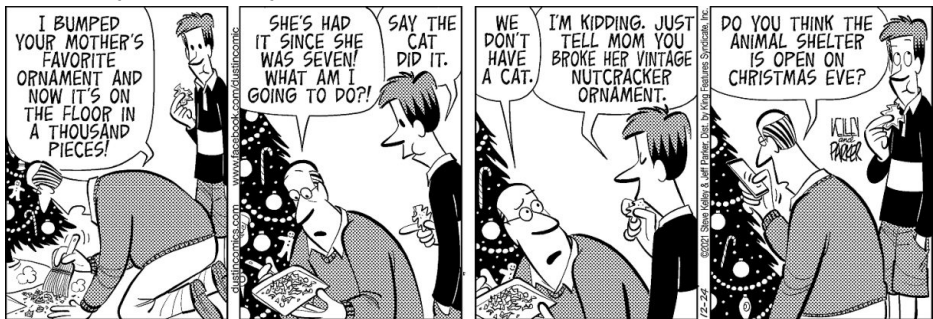
Garfield By Jim Davis



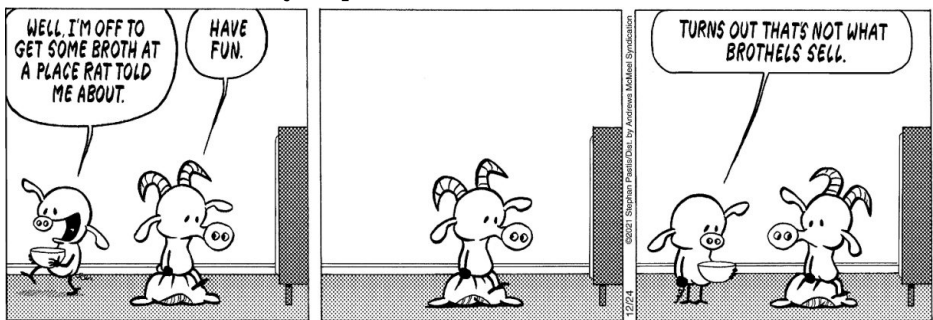
Shoe By Gary Brookins & Susie MacNelly



Dustin By Steve Kelley & Jeff Parker



Pearls Before Swine By Stephan Pastis



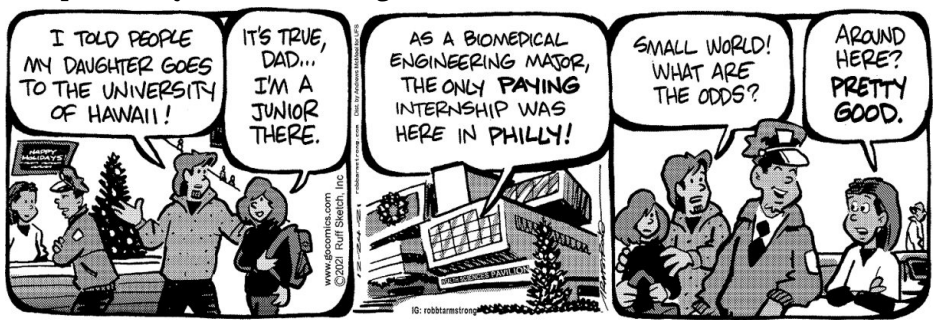
Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



Arctic Circle By Alex Hallatt



Jump Start By Robb Armstrong



Get Fuzzy By Darby Conley



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Dilbert By Scott Adams



Gil Thorp By Neal Rubin and Frank McLaughlin



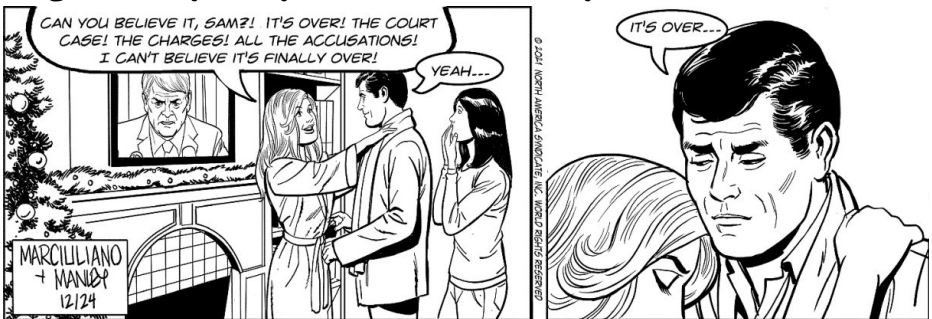
Mary Worth By Karen Moy and June Brigman



Rex Morgan, M.D. By Terry Beatty



Judge Parker By Woody Wilson and Mike Manley



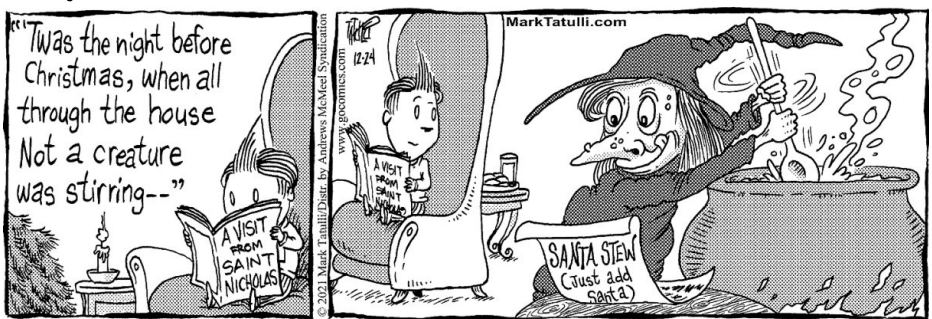
Baldo By Cantu and Castellanos



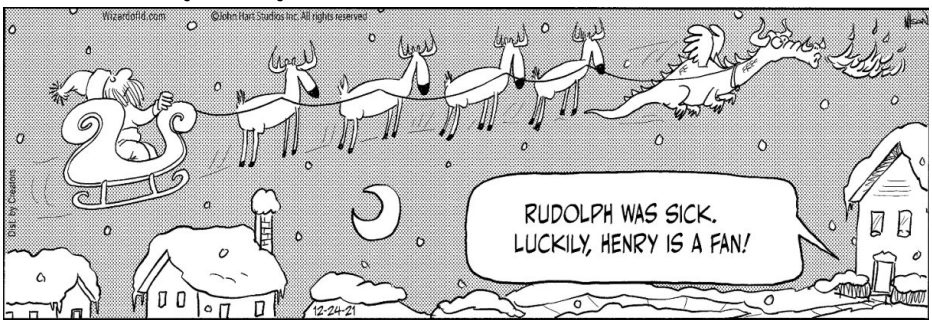
Funky Winkerbean By Tom Batiuk



Lio By Mark Tatulli



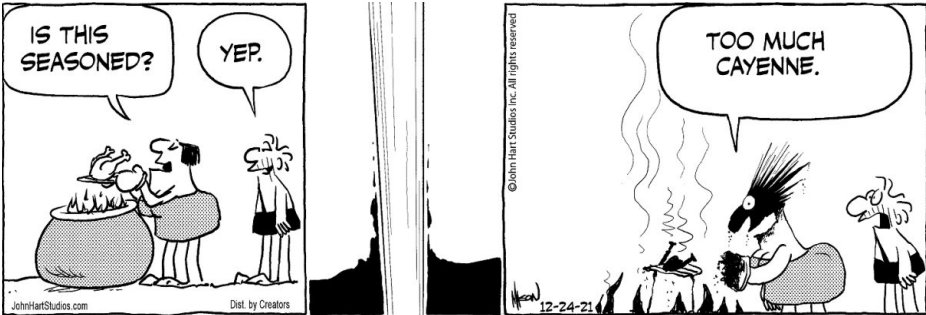
Wizard Of Id By Johnny Hart and Brant Parker



For Better Or For Worse By Lynn Johnston



B.C. By Hart



Beetle Bailey by Mort, Greg & Brian Walker



Hi & Lois By Greg and Brian Walker and Chance Browne



Hagar The Horrible By Chris Browne



Non Sequitur By Wiley Miller



Curtis By Ray Billingsley



Pickles By Brian Crane



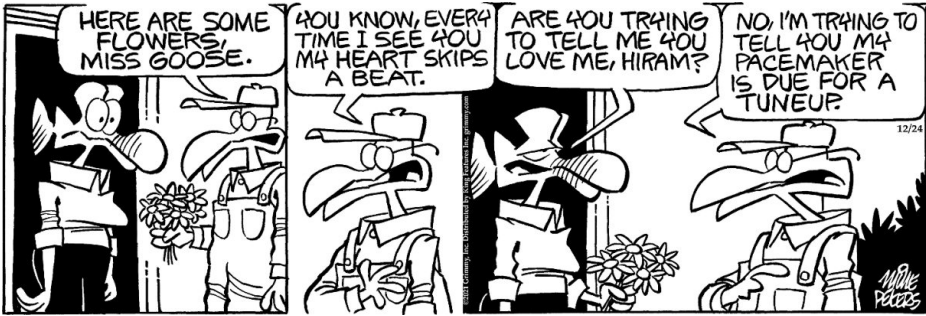
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



Rose Is Rose By Pat Brady and Don Wimmer



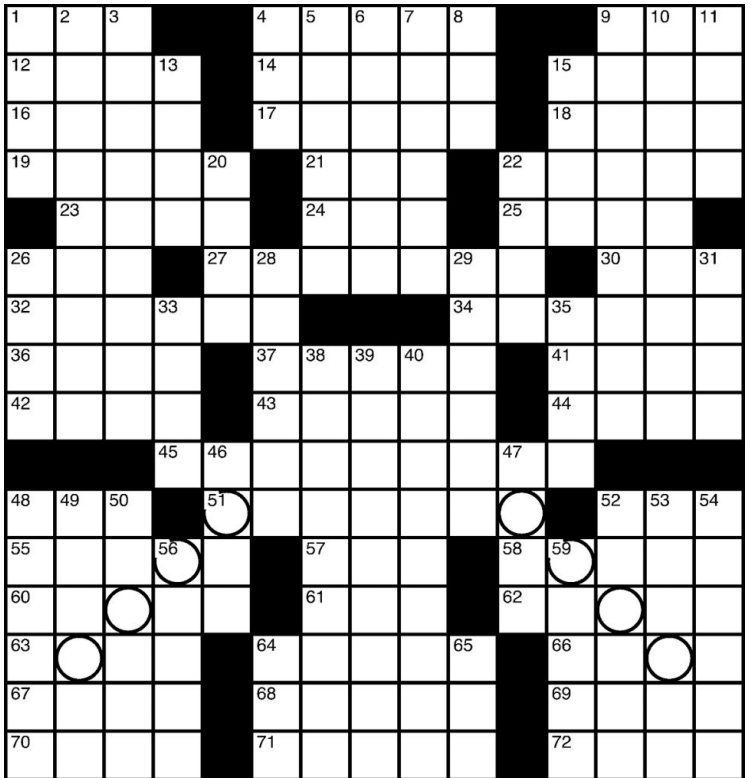
Mother Goose And Grimm By Mike Peters



CROSSWORD

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

- Across**
- 1 Tbsp., for example
 - 4 Touchy monarch?
 - 9 "United States of AI" network
 - 12 "Very droll"
 - 14 Representation
 - 15 Edible seed
 - 16 Port near the Red Sea
 - 17 To date
 - 18 Wild party
 - 19 Near-EGOT winner Midler (she's missing the O)
 - 21 Org. with admirals
 - 22 Reviews briefly
 - 23 Gets gasps from
 - 24 Bit of rebar
 - 25 Philippine currency
 - 26 Word often contracted
 - 27 Text lead-in
 - 30 "Over-sharing!"
 - 32 Home of the Green Wave
 - 34 Shrewdness
 - 36 Inventing middle name
 - 37 Short two-pointer
 - 41 "Critique of Judgment" author
 - 42 Animals drawn in the Lascaux caves
 - 43 Opposite of après
 - 44 Madrid pronoun
 - 45 Like email notifications
 - 48 33-Down members: Abbr.
 - 51 Update follower, perhaps
 - 52 "And when I __ my
- Down**
- 1 Obsessed mariner
 - 2 Added to the official playbook
 - 3 Start of a seasonal title
 - 4 Fla. NBA team, on scoreboards
 - 5 "Not a doubt in my mind"
 - 6 Title, part 2
 - 7 Chair's prep job
 - 8 Wimbledon division
 - 9 End of the title
 - 10 Drumroll follower
 - 11 Comments
 - 13 Part of a pot
 - 15 Smelting fuel
 - 20 "Around the Horn" airer
 - 22 It's risky to work on it
 - 26 Slightly
 - 28 Fix a messy package, say
 - 29 Certain rider's pace
 - 31 Grooving on
 - 33 Organization for 48-Across
 - 35 Short strings?
 - 38 Comment about a familiar film
 - 39 With the contents of this grid's circles, part of the refrain in 3-/6-/9-Down
 - 40 Salton, for one
 - 46 __ control
 - 47 RBI, e.g.
 - 48 Booty
 - 49 Increase
 - 50 Not at all up-front
 - 52 Puck handler?
 - 53 Strong
 - 54 Gets rid of
 - 56 Long range
 - 59 Mary's upstairs neighbor
 - 64 MGM motto word
 - 65 Stale



By Jeffrey Wechsler

Tribune Content Agency 12/24/21

BRIDGE

BY STEVE BECKER

Bidding quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

- North East South West
1 [D] Pass 1 [S] Pass
2 [D] Pass 2 [H] Pass
2 [S] Pass ?

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- 1. [S] KQ983 [H] KJ82 [D] 7 [C] A106
 - 2. [S] K8753 [H] KQ54 [D] -- [C] Q762
 - 3. [S] AQ982 [H] AJ95 [D] QJ7 [C] 10
 - 4. [S] AKJ82 [H] KQ73 [D] 6 [C] A73
- ***

1. Four spades. The moment your partner opens the bidding, you know there's a game in the combined hands. The only problem is to find the best contract. Your first two responses were directed toward locating a major-suit fit, and now you've found one.

Partner's preference bid of two spades should indicate three-card support, although on a rare occasion it might be made with a doubleton honor. Given the very probable 5-3 fit in spades, that game rates to be safer than three notrump, especially in view of your singleton diamond, which might make it difficult to establish partner's suit.

2. Pass. Game prospects are poor, given partner's minimum rebid of two diamonds and his belated spade preference. You should therefore settle for a partscore.

3. Four diamonds. Despite your partner's minimum rebids of two diamonds and two spades, there is still a reasonable chance for a slam. You should therefore do everything possible to try to reach it.

Your leap to four diamonds implies a singleton (or void) in clubs as well as good diamond support.

If partner holds [S] J63 [H] 6 [D] AK9852 [C] A43, he should have no compunctions about bidding six diamonds even with his minimum opening values. But if his hand consists of [S] 1063 [H] 7

[D] AK10964 [C] KQ2, he should sign off at four spades because his club honors are virtually worthless opposite a singleton or void.

4. Three clubs. There is a good chance for a slam here also -- this time in spades -- but again you should make the final decision yourself. Partner might have values where you don't need them and lack values where you do, in which case a slam could work out badly. So you consult partner by cuebidding your ace of clubs.

How far you go depends on what partner does next. He will know from your cuebid that you are angling for a spade slam, and he will presumably react accordingly. If he shows a lack of interest by bidding either three diamonds or three notrump, you will have to settle for game in spades. But if he cooperates by making a constructive bid (such as three hearts or four spades) over three clubs, you should head directly for slam.

Tomorrow: Hidden asset.

JUMBLE

BY DAVID HOYT AND JEFF KNUREK

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SREHF

RNSLA

PUYGMS

NCLEUT

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app - Follow us on Twitter @PlayJumble

©2021 Tribune Content Agency, LLC All Rights Reserved.

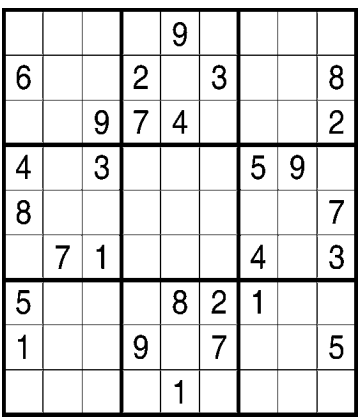
Yesterday's Jumbles: BRAWL VALVE FINALE QUORUM

Answer: She asked if she could borrow her sister's favorite sweater, but the response wasn't -- FAVORABLE



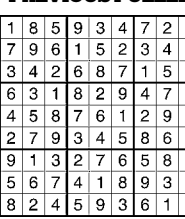
(Answers tomorrow)

TODAY'S SUDOKU

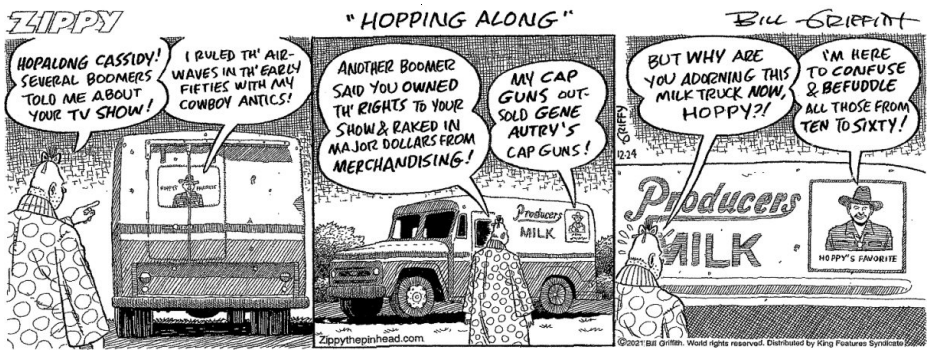


Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders) contains every digit, 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE



ANSWER TO PREVIOUS CROSSWORD PUZZLE



BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



Scan QR code to play online.

SUDOKU

4 7 2 9

3 5 8

5 1

2 6

7 5

7 2 3

1 6 8 7 2

© 2017 The Mephram Group. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All rights reserved.

Level: 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit 1 to 9. For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit www.sudoku.org.uk.

2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 1

9 6 8 1 3 2 4 5

5 4 1 9 2 8 3 6

4 2 9 6 1 3 5 8

3 2 5 4 8 9 6 1

8 1 6 2 3 5 4 9

1 8 4 2 9 1 9 6 3

2 9 3 8 6 4 1 5 2

6 5 2 3 9 1 2 8 4

BOGGLE

Boggle BrainBusters!

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

CYUK
PRCJ
SEAP
SDLM

BOGGLE is a trademark of Hasbro, Inc. © 2019 Hasbro, Inc. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. All Rights Reserved. www.bogglebrainbusters.com

INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

BOGGLE POINT SCALE

- 3 letters = 1 point
- 4 letters = 2 points
- 5 letters = 3 points
- 6 letters = 4 points
- 7 letters = 6 points
- 8 letters = 10 points
- 9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING

- 151+ = Champ
- 101-150 = Expert
- 61-100 = Pro
- 31-60 = Gamer
- 21-30 = Rookie
- 11-20 = Amateur
- 0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus

We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?

Find AT LEAST SIX TREES in the grid of letters.

ELM PALM CEDAR MAPLE SPRUCE CYPRESS

WordWheel

WordWheel

A D E

D M I ? T

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

ADMITTED

©2020 Knight Features. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. 10/6

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: travel

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

P L U G G A G E P D E P A R T U R E

O D A E M O G A I L P A S S P O R T

S A R S T A T I O N A D S G T K D Q

T V E I X U F N A O X N K A M N H T

C M M Z V Y E G A Y O V E L W Y O R

A P A S S E N G E R S S N T N R L C

R N C D T D R M O N E Y O E R R I H

D S M W Y R A R E N I T I J O E D A

U P U T R A F F I C I I T A U F A L

D A P M D N Y P G S N C A B T E Y E

Z M T A M A L L I P U K N O E H S T

F G O T W E I V L P O E I A H P I K

P R M L V D R A A H H T T R A E G C

G I A L P T X J O R L S D P I H S

P A R E M F E D Y T O O E R A F T Y

R T T T O A I R P O R T D O X U S E

J O U R N E Y W P S R O T A U Q E K

H J M B V W H T E N T B U S E S R V

ABOARD
AIRPORT
BUSES
CAMERA
CHALET
DEPARTURE
DESTINATION
DRIVER
EQUATOR
FARE
FERRY

HOLIDAY
HOTEL
ITINERARY
JETLAG
JOURNEY
KEYS
LUGGAGE
MAPS
MONEY
PASSENGERS
PASSPORT

PHOTOS
PLANE
PLATFORM
POOL
POSTCARD
RAILWAY
REST
ROAD
ROUTE
SEAT
SHIP

SIGHTS
STATION
SUMMER
TENT
TICKET
TRAFFIC
TRAVEL
TRIP
VIEW
VISIT
VOYAGE

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8

9 10 11

12 13

14 15

16 17 18 19 20 21 22

23 24

25 26 27 28 29

30 31

32 33

34 35 36 37 38

39 40 41 42 43

44 45

46 47

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 10/18/15

ACROSS

- 1 "___ of Engagement"
- 6 Conway or Allen
- 9 "Love Is ___ Splendored Thing"
- 10 "The ___", adventure series for George Peppard
- 12 Microsoft's Bill
- 13 "Waiting to ___", movie for Whitney Houston
- 14 Take advantage of
- 15 Actress Summer
- 16 "The Biggest ___"
- 19 "___ in Manhattan"; Jennifer Lopez film
- 23 Lover of an Irish Rose
- 24 "Queen of Jazz"
- 25 "___ Powers: The Spy Who Shagged Me"; Mike Myers film
- 28 Daisy Duck's love
- 30 "One ___ Hill"
- 31 Lead role on "Breaking Bad"
- 32 Crawling bugs
- 33 Actress Lavin
- 34 Pellets of frozen rain
- 36 Scientist's workplace
- 39 Sign up

DOWN

- 42 "Hearts ___"; John Ritter series
- 44 Greeting from an angry dog
- 45 "A Doll's House" playwright
- 46 Word with fly or about
- 47 Hayworth and Moreno

1 Spaghetti topper

2 Thurman and her namesakes

3 "The ___ with James Corden"

4 180° from WSW

5 Respiratory or circulatory: abbr.

6 Actress Leoni

7 Suffix for part or tutor

8 Butterfly or Bovary: abbr.

10 "So I Married an ___ Murderer"; Nancy Travis movie

11 Simon Baker series

13 Goof up

15 Average grade

17 Geisha's sash

18 "___ City"; crime thriller for Bruce Willis and Mickey Rourke

20 Jim Nabors' state of birth: abbr.

21 "___ Fly Away"

22 "American ___ I"

25 "Once Day ___ Time"

26 Fancy vase

27 ___ up; arrange

28 Mr. Rather

29 "The New Adventures of ___ Christine"

31 Actor Wheaton

33 "Diamond ___"; play for Mae West

35 "___ My Children"

37 Zone

38 Stiller and Stein

39 "The ___ and I"; Fred MacMurray movie

40 Gun rights org.

41 Serling of "The Twilight Zone"

42 "Con ___"; film for Nicolas Cage

43 "The ___"; crime drama series for Efram Zimbalist, Jr.

ARROW WORDS

Fill in the grid using the clues provided in the direction of the arrows. When complete, unscramble the letters in the circles to reveal a mystery word.

Light form of lava Rain shield "Encore!" Certain Winter Olympian Tête-à-tête Bit of sweat Farm building Clumsy sort Boatload President pro ___

Got up Posed

Coffee order Young fox Charity Actor McKellen

Jam spreader Barely make

Lustrous fabric Natural emollient Freshly painted

Procter & Gamble brand Fuzz Reeked Bother Used up

Pack carrier Peculiar Tiny bit Hard throw, in baseball

On, as a lamp "Bye!" Matter for the gray matter Catch some rays

Rational Vogue Montana city

©2019 Knight Features. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency. 12/1/19

KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES

START

FINISH

Find the ten differences between the two pictures.

ANSWER:

1. House on the left has a chimney, the one on the right does not.
2. House on the right has a chimney, the one on the left does not.
3. House on the left has a chimney, the one on the right does not.
4. House on the right has a chimney, the one on the left does not.
5. House on the left has a chimney, the one on the right does not.
6. House on the right has a chimney, the one on the left does not.
7. House on the left has a chimney, the one on the right does not.
8. House on the right has a chimney, the one on the left does not.
9. House on the left has a chimney, the one on the right does not.
10. House on the right has a chimney, the one on the left does not.

Hartford Courant

SPORTS

COURANT.COM / SPORTS

UConn Women's Basketball

CHRISTMAS CHEER

A holiday wish list for Auriemma's 11th-ranked Huskies

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

The No. 11 UConn women's basketball team dispersed for the holiday break showcasing the growth it has made since losing reigning national player of the year Paige Bueckers until February with a knee injury.

The Huskies also showed how much work lies in front of them if they want to make a 14th consecutive trip to the Final Four.

To get into the holiday spirit, here are a few items we suspect are on UConn's wish list as it enters 2022 and the next phase of the season:

Azzi Fudd, Nika Mühl back ASAP

While much of the attention has been on Bueckers' absence, it's hindered the Huskies to be without both sharpshooter Azzi Fudd for five games and backup point guard Nika Mühl for three. Fudd and Mühl are dynamic play-makers who also allow UConn to stretch the floor. Without them plus Bueckers, the Huskies have played with just three guards (Christyn Williams, Evina Westbrook and Caroline Ducharme) the last three games.

"You can always figure out a way

to put five guards out on the floor and figure out something," UConn coach Geno Auriemma said. "But when you're limited and your guards have got to play 40 minutes, it's wearing."

Auriemma said before the holiday break that Fudd and Mühl were progressing well as they recover from foot injuries. The Huskies would get a major boost if either (or ideally both) players return for this tough upcoming stretch of conference play against Marquette (Wednesday) and DePaul (Dec. 31).

Turn to UConn, Page 4



Nika Mühl, from left, Aubrey Griffin and Azzi Fudd were among the injured missing from UConn's lineup in Sunday's loss to Louisville.
CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL



Cromwell girls basketball coach Kelly Maher, center, talks to her players during a timeout Thursday against Pomperaug. Cromwell won 54-35, giving Maher her 300th career win. **PHOTOS BY JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT**

A new milestone

Cromwell coach Maher gets her 300th career win with a victory over Pomperaug

By Lori Riley
Hartford Courant

CROMWELL — Cromwell girls basketball coach Kelly Maher is a pretty low-key person, so when she won her 300th game Thursday night, she and her team treated it like any other game.

After the Panthers (4-0) defeated Pomperaug 54-35, the players brought out a sign that read "Coach Maher's 300th win" and "Congrats" in small letters on the bottom and held it up with Maher, and they took pictures and that was it.

On to East Hampton next Tuesday night.

"I think the kids were pretty excited to be part of something like this, knowing the history of the program," said Maher, who is in her 15th season.

Maher, whose record is 300-59, played at Cromwell, graduating in 1995. She became the head coach in 2007 and went 15-11 that season, her most losses in one season. Since then, her teams have won three state titles (2013, 2016, 2019) and have gone undefeated twice

Turn to Maher, Page 2



Cromwell's Nevaeh Clark scores over Pomperaug's Megan Reilly on Thursday in Cromwell. Clark scored 20 points in the victory.

NETS

Slammed by COVID-19, team says it's ready for Christmas return

By Brian Mahoney
Associated Press

NEW YORK — The Brooklyn Nets say they have enough players to fly to Los Angeles and play their Christmas showdown against the Lakers, though Kevin Durant might not be among them.

Coach Steve Nash said Thurs-

day that James Harden has cleared the NBA's health and safety protocols, but he said the Nets don't expect any of their players still in the protocols to come out in time for the game. That would include Durant, the NBA's leading scorer.

Brooklyn planning to play on Saturday is an obvious positive sign, as was Chicago coach Billy

Donovan announcing after practice Thursday that the Bulls no longer have any players on the protocols list. The Bulls had as many as 10 on that list last week, when the league postponed two of their games as a result.

The Nets have had their last three scheduled games postponed — among the NBA's nine postpone-

ments thus far — when a coronavirus outbreak left them with a league-high 10 players in protocols. Nash said Harden, Paul Millsap and Jevon Carter had cleared protocols, though rookies Cam Thomas, Kessler Edwards and David Duke Jr. had since entered.

Turn to Nets, Page 4

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Big East rescinds forfeit policy

Decision applied retroactively for basketball games canceled due to COVID-19 issues

By Alexa Philippou
Hartford Courant

The Big East Conference announced Thursday that amid a significant uptick in COVID-19 cases due to the spread of the highly transmissible omicron variant, it has rescinded its forfeiture policy, applied retroactively, for basketball games that have been canceled due to COVID-19 issues.

Moving forward, if a team can't field at least seven scholarship players and one countable coach, the game will be canceled and the conference will attempt to reschedule it. If the game cannot be made up, it will be designated a no contest.

Under the conference's previous policy that was enacted in November, if a team had "an insufficient number of players" available, it was counted as a forfeit, a loss for the team in question and a win for its opponent. Four Big East games on the men's side were deemed forfeits the past few weeks after COVID-19 outbreaks in the Seton Hall, DePaul and Georgetown programs. Those games are now no longer counted as such, and the league office is working to reschedule them.

The Big East has now joined the ACC, SEC, Big 12 and Pac-12 in rescinding similar forfeiture policies as COVID-19 cases skyrocket and experts fear the surge will get even worse over the next month.

"We expected at this time that omicron's impact would be hitting Connecticut, and it's beginning to affect us right now," Dr. Ajay Kumar, chief clinical officer at Hartford HealthCare, said Wednesday. "I think we're going to see continued increase in prevalence over the next several days and probably the early part of January."

The league added that "the Big East Conference, its member institutions and the conference's health and safety working group will continue to monitor the landscape and determine whether additional scheduling policy changes may be warranted in the future."

Safety Tip of the Day

When using candles throughout your house, always use non-flammable candle holders and be sure to place those candles where they will not be knocked over.

RisCASSI & DAVIS
P.C.
Protecting the rights of the injured for more than 60 years

riscassi-davis.com

131 Oak Street • Hartford, Connecticut
860.522.1196 • 800.344.5297

SPORTS

UP NEXT

Patriots: Bills, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Giants: at Eagles, Sunday, 1 p.m.
Jets: Jaguars, Sunday, 1 p.m.
UConn MBB: at Xavier, Tuesday, 7 p.m.; Butler (XL), Jan. 1, 4 p.m.; at Seton Hall, Jan. 8, noon
UConn WBB: Marquette (XL), Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at DePaul, Dec. 31, 2 p.m.; at Georgetown, Jan. 5, 7 p.m.
Celtics: at Bucks, Saturday, 2:30 p.m.; at Timberwolves, Monday, 8 p.m.; Clippers, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.
Knicks: Hawks, Saturday, noon; at Timberwolves, Tuesday, 8 p.m.; at Pistons, Wednesday, 7 p.m.
Nets: at Lakers, Saturday, 8 p.m.; at Clippers, Monday, 10:30 p.m.; 76ers, Thursday, 7 p.m.
UConn hockey: at Harvard, Jan. 2, 7 p.m.; at Boston Coll., Jan. 8, 4 p.m.; Boston Univ., Jan. 14, 7 p.m.
Bruins: Penguins, Monday, 7 p.m.; at Senators, Wednesday, 7:30 p.m.; Sabres, Jan. 1, 1 p.m.
Rangers: Red Wings, Monday, 7 p.m.; at Panthers, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; at Lightning, Dec. 31, 7 p.m.
Wolf Pack: at Bridgeport, Wednesday, 7 p.m.; Providence, Dec. 31, 3 p.m.; Rochester, Jan. 2, 3 p.m.

TV/RADIO FOOTBALL

8 p.m.: Hawaii Bowl
Memphis at Hawaii. (Live) ESPN



Cromwell's Jessica Grodzicki looks to shoot between Pomperaug's Megan Reilly, left, and Sophia Zahran on Thursday. JESSICA HILL/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

Maher

from Page 1

(2013, 2016). The Panthers were state runners-up in 2011 and 2015. In 2020, they were in the Class M semi-finals when the season was stopped due to the pandemic.

"I've been fortunate enough that I've had a lot of very good players come along, and they've bought into the system," Maher said. "We just had success with what we've done. From that standpoint, it's really the kids that have done the work and

put in the time and really bought in. Without them, I wouldn't be here.

"To be in that caliber with all the other coaches that have [done] that, it's quite an accomplishment and quite an honor to be with that group of coaches."

Junior Nevaeh Clark had 20 points to lead Cromwell and junior Jessica Grodzicki added 14. Claudia Schneider had 17 points for Pomperaug (2-2).

"There was that type of pressure for the 300th win but also, they're not in our conference and we knew

it was going to be a tougher team for us," Clark said. "We all had to work together and make our shots and play together as a team."

Cromwell jumped out to a 13-2 lead when Clark scored the Panthers' first nine points. Pomperaug rallied to cut the lead to 17-12 by the end of the quarter, but Cromwell's defense held Pomperaug to five points in the second quarter and Cromwell led 27-17 at halftime.

Cromwell pulled away by the end of the third quarter, ending the quarter with a 6-0 run for a 44-30 lead.

"Pomperaug is a great team.

They're really known for their defensive pressure, and they can score in bunches," Maher said. "I was pleased with the way we were able to contain them and respond to their defense. When we could have folded in several cases, we got a defensive stop and were able to turn it around.

"It was a team effort, and it really started on our defensive end with some stops and disrupting what they like to do."

Lori Riley can be reached at lriley@courant.com.

GIANTS

Barkley wants to just focus on getting better

By Tom Canavan
Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Saquon Barkley believes he has spent most of the season discussing everyone else's expectations for him coming off major knee surgery.

The questions never stopped. Has recovering from an ACL injury been tougher than expected? Is he going to return to being one of the NFL's top running backs? Why is he gaining fewer yards than expected?

With three games left in the season, Barkley seemingly wants to shut out the noise with the Giants (4-10) preparing to play the rival Philadelphia Eagles (7-7) on Sunday.

"The only thing that really matters is my thought process, you know what I mean?" Barkley said Thursday after practice. "I've got to go out there and control what I can control. I say football is an 11-man sport. It's the greatest team sport in the world, but I've got to go out there and control what I can control."

Barkley has carried 115 times for 429 yards and two touchdowns. He has caught 37 passes for 248 yards and two TDs. In his rookie season in 2018, the former Penn State star ran for 1,307 yards and 11 TDs. He also caught 91 passes for 721 yards and four TDs.

Barkley said there are

two things he wants to focus on. He intends to play with a team-first approach while also focusing on himself and getting better every day.

Barkley, 24, tore the ACL and meniscus in his right knee in the second game of the 2020 season. He had surgery a little more than a month later and then spent the next nine months getting ready for training camp and eventually the season. It wasn't decided until days before New York's opener that he would play against Denver, and that was on a limited basis.

It took him a month to shows signs of the Barkley of old. In a road game at New Orleans on Oct. 3, Barkley ran for 52 yards on 13 carries and scored the winning TD on a 6-yard run in overtime. The second pick overall in 2018 also had five catches for 74 yards, including a 54-yard touchdown catch.

The following week, the Giants went to Dallas and Barkley was stoked. "I felt very confident that I was going to be able to have a big performance for the team and hopefully be able to turn the season around," Barkley said.

With just over six minutes left in the first quarter, Barkley stepped on the foot of Cowboys cornerback Jourdan Lewis. He sprained his left ankle and missed the next four games.



Patriots cornerback J.C. Jackson, right, breaks up a pass intended for Colts wide receiver Michael Pittman Jr. on Saturday in Indianapolis. AJ MAST/AP

PATRIOTS

Pro Bowl CB Jackson 'trying to create my own island'

By Karen Guregian
Boston Herald

Cornerback J.C. Jackson has gone from being an undrafted rookie to learning from Stephon Gilmore and other Patriots veterans, to now having Pro Bowl distinction.

Next up? Island status.

Darrelle Revis had a well-known island, where he locked up opposing receivers. And now Jackson, who is second in the league with seven interceptions, giving him 24 over the last three seasons, says he's creating one of his own.

"I'm a lockdown corner, so I like being on the Island. That's what I get paid to do," he said Thursday. "I'm trying to create my own island. I haven't come up with no name yet. But it's coming real soon."

Jackson was named to his first Pro Bowl on Monday, although teammate Adrian Phillips said it should have been two at this point given how well the corner performed last season, with nine interceptions.

Jackson said he's just grateful to have one under his belt, with hopes of more to follow.

"It was a blessing, man, just being able to be in my first Pro Bowl. It means a lot

for me and everything I've dedicated and all the hard work I've put in. I'm looking forward to the Pro Bowl and to make many more Pro Bowls."

After three seasons playing in Gilmore's shadow, Jackson has risen to the challenge of being the Patriots' top corner, shadowing the best receivers on opposing teams.

"It's always been my goal, ever since I entered the NFL," he said of the Pro Bowl honor. "I want to be all of those. ... I want to be a Hall of Famer, Pro Bowler, All-Pro. I mean, that's what you play for. You play to be your best. You play to compete."

Jackson knew as an undrafted player, he'd have to work twice as hard not only to make the team but also to make a name for himself.

He acknowledged having to change some of his old habits in order to become one of the best in the game.

"I always knew I could be one of the best DBs in the game. Just actually putting the work in and doing what I need to do to be the best," he said. "I had to do things I didn't want to do. I had to discipline myself. There's a lot that comes with it. And now that I'm starting to do that, becoming a true professional, I see it paying off for me."

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Fairfield turns its attention to conference play after defeat

Staff report

Alex Morales and Elijah Ford each had 15 points to lead Wagner (6-2) to a 63-50 victory over Fairfield 63-50 in a men's basketball game Thursday afternoon in Bridgeport.

Caleb Green led the Stags (8-5) with 11 points, Chris Maidoh scored 10 and Taj Benning had nine rebounds.

The game featured six ties and nine lead changes.

Fairfield completed the nonconference portion of the schedule with six wins — its most since the 2015-16 season. The Stags are 2-0 in the MAAC.

"We knew coming in that we were going to have a very difficult game against a very good team," Fairfield coach Jay Young said. "Wagner is a very talented team, and I'm sure that they're going to win a lot of games in their conference, and they beat us at some of the things we knew they excel at. They got to the free-throw line and did a good job on the offensive glass, and we just couldn't get anything going offensively. There's a lot for us to improve on as we get back into league play. We'll get right back to work after Christmas and focus on the things that will make us a better basketball team."

Green hit two of Fairfield's six 3-pointers.

The Stags were lost the rebounding battle for just the second time this season, 38-31. Fairfield had nine offensive rebounds and scored 10 second-chance points. Wagner made up the difference by turning 12 Stags turnovers into 15 points.

The game was the start of a four-game homestand for the Stags, who have three MAAC contests at Webster Bank Arena coming up. Fairfield hosts Manhattan (8-3, 1-1) on Dec. 31 at 2 p.m. and then welcomes defending MAAC Champion Iona (10-2, 2-0) on Jan. 2 at 1 p.m.

The homestand wraps up on Jan. 7 against Marist.

JETS

Club doing emergency prep work with makeshift secondary

By Dennis Waszak Jr.
Associated Press

NEW YORK — Safety has been an unusually unsafe position for the shorthanded New York Jets this season.

Veterans, rookies and players coming in from other teams — or even off the street — have provided a revolving door of defensive

backs trying to bolster the back end of coordinator Jeff Ulbrich's defense because of injuries and illnesses.

As of Thursday night, the Jets had just two healthy safeties listed on their active roster: Will Parks, who was claimed off waivers from Miami on Monday, and Kai Nacua, who was signed off San Francisco's practice

squad Thursday. Elijah Benton is also on the practice squad. The Jets host Jacksonville on Sunday.

"I could not tell you today who's going to be the starting safeties," Ulbrich said.

One option will likely be rookie Jason Pinnock, a fifth-round pick who starred at Windsor High School. He was drafted as

a cornerback and has been mixed in lately at safety.

"He gives us a little bit of a guy that's got a little bit of familiarity with what we're doing, although the safety position is new to him," Ulbrich said. "He probably has the most background with what we're trying to get accomplished."

Pinnock's move from

cornerback to free safety, Ulbrich said, wasn't necessarily a matter of him not being productive at his natural position. "It was more of a thing where we asked our free safety position to go down and cover wide receivers, cover tight ends, so the man (coverage) ability for that position is paramount," Ulbrich said. "So, it just made sense."

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Brooklyn	21	9	.700	—
Philadelphia	16	15	.516	5½
Boston	16	16	.500	6
Toronto	14	15	.483	6½
New York	14	17	.452	7½

SOUTHEAST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Miami	19	13	.594	—
Washington	16	15	.516	2½
Charlotte	16	17	.485	3½
Atlanta	14	16	.467	4
Orlando	7	25	.219	12

CENTRAL				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Chicago	19	10	.655	—
Milwaukee	20	13	.606	1
Cleveland	19	13	.594	1½
Indiana	13	19	.406	7½
Detroit	5	25	.167	14½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	19	13	.594	—
Dallas	15	15	.500	3
San Antonio	12	18	.400	6
New Orleans	11	21	.344	8
Houston	10	22	.313	9

NORTHWEST				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Utah	21	9	.700	—
Denver	15	15	.500	6
Minnesota	15	16	.484	6½
Portland	13	19	.406	9
Oklahoma City	11	19	.367	10

PACIFIC				
	W	L	PCT	GB
Phoenix	25	5	.833	—
Golden State	25	6	.806	½
L.A. Clippers	17	15	.531	9
L.A. Lakers	16	16	.500	10
Sacramento	13	20	.394	13½

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Atlanta at Philadelphia, late
Houston at Indiana, late
New Orleans at Orlando, late
Detroit at Miami, late
Washington at New York, late
Milwaukee at Dallas, late
Charlotte at Denver, late
Minnesota at Utah, late
Oklahoma City at Phoenix, late
Memphis at Golden State, late
San Antonio at L.A. Lakers, late
Brooklyn at Portland, ppd

FRIDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Atlanta at New York, 12p.m.
Boston at Milwaukee, 2:30p.m.
Golden State at Phoenix, 5p.m.
Brooklyn at L.A. Lakers, 8p.m.
Dallas at Utah, 10:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Orlando at Miami, 3:30p.m.
Toronto at Cleveland, 6p.m.
Philadelphia at Washington, 6p.m.
Memphis at Sacramento, 6p.m.
New Orleans at Oklahoma City, 7p.m.
Detroit at San Antonio, 7p.m.
Indiana at Chicago, 8p.m.
Denver at L.A. Clippers, 9p.m.

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS
Boston 111, Cleveland 101
Orlando 104, Atlanta 98
Oklahoma City 108, Denver 94
Milwaukee 126, Houston 106
L.A. Clippers 105, Sacramento 89
Toronto at Chicago, ppd

TEAM SCORING

BENCH	GP	MIN	PPG	FG%
Houston	32	19.3	41.1	47.0
San Antonio	30	18.6	41.0	46.6
Phoenix	30	17.5	39.8	44.6
Detroit	30	18.8	39.4	42.8
Washington	31	19.3	38.9	45.8
New York	31	18.2	38.7	48.3
Sacramento	33	18.2	38.7	41.9
Miami	32	17.4	38.5	46.1
Memphis	32	20.0	36.8	44.9
Utah	30	17.4	36.7	42.9
L.A. Lakers	32	19.2	36.6	44.1
Golden State	31	19.4	35.9	47.3
Oklahoma City	30	18.9	35.6	41.3
Dallas	30	18.8	35.6	43.9
Cleveland	32	16.5	35.0	40.6
L.A. Clippers	32	18.3	34.8	45.6
Charlotte	33	16.6	34.7	46.5
Indiana	32	17.5	33.3	42.8
Orlando	32	17.4	32.9	39.7
Minnesota	31	18.0	32.6	39.1
Atlanta	30	17.1	32.6	39.5
Portland	32	17.5	32.3	45.5
Denver	30	17.4	32.1	39.9
Brooklyn	30	17.3	31.4	45.0
New Orleans	32	16.9	30.6	40.8
Philadelphia	31	16.0	29.1	43.5
Boston	32	16.4	28.3	41.2
Milwaukee	33	17.6	28.0	40.7
Chicago	29	15.8	27.0	48.7
Toronto	29	14.1	24.8	41.2

ODDS

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

		FRIDAY
Hawaii Bowl		
Memphis	8½ (56)	Hawaii
Camellia Bowl		Saturday
Georgia State	5 (50½)	Ball State
Quick Lane Bowl		Monday
W Michigan	6 (56)	Nevada
Military Bowl		
Boston College	3 (51½)	East Carolina
Birmingham Bowl		Tuesday
Auburn	2½ (51½)	Houston
SERVPRO First Responder Bowl		
Louisville	1½ (55½)	Air Force
Liberty Bowl		
Mississippi St.	9 (59½)	Texas Tech
Holiday Bowl		
NC State	1 (60)	UCLA
Guaranteed Rate Bowl		
Minnesota	4 (45)	West Virginia
Fenway Bowl		Wednesday
Virginia	2 (71)	SMU
Pinstripe Bowl		
Maryland	3 (55)	Virginia Tech
Cheez-It Bowl		
Clemson	1 (44)	Iowa State
Alamo Bowl		
Oklahoma	4½ (61½)	Oregon
Duke's Mayo Bowl		Thursday
North Carolina	9 (58½)	South Carolina
Music City Bowl		
Tennessee	4½ (63)	Purdue
Peach Bowl		
Michigan State	2½ (57)	Pittsburgh
Las Vegas Bowl		
Wisconsin	7 (42)	Arizona State
Sun Bowl Friday, Dec. 31		
Miami	2½ (59)	Wash. St.
Arizona Bowl		
Boise State	8 (55½)	C. Michigan
Gator Bowl		
Wake Forest	11½ 57½	Rutgers
CFP Semifinal Cotton Bowl Classic		
Alabama	13½ (58)	Cincinnati
CFP Semifinal Orange Bowl		
Georgia	8 (47)	Michigan
Outback Bowl		Saturday, Jan. 1
Penn State	2 (47)	Arkansas
Fiesta Bowl		
Notre Dame	2 (45½)	Oklahoma St.
Citrus Bowl		
Kentucky	2½ (44)	Iowa
Rose Bowl		
Ohio State	6½ (66)	Utah
Sugar Bowl		
Baylor	E (55)	Mississippi
Texas Bowl		Tuesday, Jan. 4
Kansas State	2½ (47)	LSU

NFL WEEK 16				
at Green Bay	1½ (45½)	Cleveland		
at Arizona	1½ (48½)	Indianapolis		
SUNDAY				
at Cincinnati	3½ (45½)	Baltimore		
L.A. Rams	3½ (48½)	at Minnesota		
at Atlanta	6 (42½)	Detroit		
Tampa Bay	10 (43)	at Carolina		
L.A. Chargers	10 (45½)	at Houston		
at New England	2 (43½)	Buffalo		
at NY Jets	1 (41½)	Jacksonville		
at Philadelphia	10 (40½)	NY Giants		
at Seattle	6½ (43½)	Chicago		
at Kansas City	7 (45)	Pittsburgh		
at Las Vegas	1 (41½)	Denver		
at Dallas	10 (47)	Washington		
MONDAY				
at New Orleans	3 (36½)	Miami		

For the latest odds, go to [FanDuel Sportsbook, https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/](https://sportsbook.fanduel.com/)

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Tampa Bay	30	20	6	4	44	98	80		
Toronto	30	20	8	2	42	98	76		
Florida	29	18	7	4	40	104	87		
Detroit	31	15	13	3	33	88	104		
Boston	26	14	10	2	30	71	69		
Buffalo	30	10	15	5	25	82	104		
Ottawa	28	9	17	2	20	79	101		
Montreal	31	7	21	3	17	67	109		
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Carolina	29	21	7	1	43	95	62		
Washington	31	18	6	7	43	108	81		
N.Y. Rangers	30	19	7	4	42	86	77		
Pittsburgh	30	17	8	5	39	91	76		
Columbus	28	14	13	1	29	91	95		
Philadelphia	29	12	12	5	29	77	95		
New Jersey	30	10	15	5	25	82	105		
N.Y. Islanders	26	8	12	6	22	57	77		

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Minnesota	30	19	9	2	40	112	92		
Nashville	30	19	10	1	39	89	79		
St. Louis	31	17	9	5	39	106	85		
Colorado	27	17	8	2	36	115	91		
Winnipeg	30	14	11	5	33	90	87		
Dallas	29	15	12	2	32	82	85		
Chicago	30	11	15	4	26	72	97		
Arizona	29	6	21	2	14	56	109		
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA		
Vegas	32	20	12	0	40	114	98		
Anaheim	32	17	9	6	40	103	89		
Calgary	28	15	7	6	36	87	62		
Edmonton	29	18	11	0	36	101	90		
Los Angeles	30	14	11	5	33	80	79		
San Jose	30	15	14	1	31	78	85		
Vancouver	31	14	15	2	30	81	90		
Seattle	30	10	17	3	23	84	108		

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
St. Louis at Toronto, ppd
Buffalo at Columbus, ppd
Carolina at Ottawa, ppd
Colorado at Boston, ppd
Montreal at New Jersey, ppd
Nashville at Florida, ppd
Philadelphia at Pittsburgh, ppd
Washington at N.Y. Islanders, ppd
Detroit at Minnesota, ppd
Dallas at Chicago, ppd
Seattle at Calgary, ppd
Tampa Bay at Arizona, ppd
Anaheim at Vancouver, ppd
Edmonton at San Jose, ppd
Los Angeles at Vegas, ppd

FRIDAY-SUNDAY
No games scheduled

MONDAY'S GAMES
Pittsburgh at Boston, 7p.m.
N.Y. Islanders at Buffalo, 7p.m.
Detroit at N.Y. Rangers, 7p.m.
Ottawa at Washington, 7p.m.
Florida at Carolina, 7p.m.
Toronto at Columbus, 7p.m.
New Jersey at St. Louis, 8p.m.
Nashville at Dallas, 8:30p.m.
Minnesota at Winnipeg, 9p.m.
Los Angeles at Arizona, 9p.m.
Edmonton at Calgary, 10p.m.
Seattle at Vancouver, 10p.m.
Colorado at Vegas, 10p.m.
San Jose at Anaheim, 10p.m.

All-Star Weekend: Feb. 4-5, 2022
Trade Deadline: March 21
Stanley Cup Playoffs: May 2-June 30.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

MEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. **Baylor (11-0) did not play.** Next: vs. Northwestern State, Tuesday.
2. **Duke (11-1) did not play.** Next: vs. Clemson, Wednesday.
3. **Purdue (11-1) did not play.** Next: vs. Nicholls, Wednesday.
4. **Gonzaga (10-2) did not play.** Next: vs. N. Alabama, Tuesday.
5. **UCLA (9-1) did not play.** Next: vs. #6 Arizona, Thursday, Dec. 30.
6. **Arizona (11-1) did not play.** Next: at #5 UCLA, Thursday, Dec. 30.
7. **Kansas (9-1) did not play.** Next: vs. Harvard, Wednesday.
8. **Southern Cal (12-0) did not play.** Next: vs. Arizona St., Thursday, Dec. 30.
9. **Iowa State (12-0) did not play.** Next: vs. #1 Baylor, Saturday, Jan. 1.
10. **Alabama (9-3) did not play.** Next: vs. #19 Tennessee, Wednesday.
11. **Michigan State (10-2) did not play.** Next: vs. High Point, Wednesday.
12. **Auburn (11-1) did not play.** Next: vs. #17 LSU, Wednesday.
13. **Houston (11-2) did not play.** Next: vs. Cincinnati, Tuesday.
14. **Ohio State (8-2) did not play.** Next: vs. New Orleans, Tuesday.
15. **Seton Hall (9-2) vs. DePaul, ppd.** Next: at #22 Providence, Wednesday.
16. **Texas (9-2) did not play.** Next: vs. Incarnate Word, Tuesday.
17. **LSU (12-0) did not play.** Next: at #12 Auburn, Wednesday.
18. **Xavier (11-2) did not play.** Next: vs. UConn, Tuesday.
19. **Tennessee (9-2) did not play.** Next: at #10 Alabama, Wednesday.
20. **Kentucky (9-2) did not play.** Next: vs. Missouri, Wednesday.
21. **Colorado State (10-0) did not play.** Next: at New Mexico, Tuesday.
22. **Providence (11-1) did not play.** Next: vs. #15 Seton Hall, Wednesday.
23. **Villanova (8-4) did not play.** Next: vs. Temple, Wednesday.
24. **Wisconsin (9-2) vs. George Mason, ccd.** Next: vs. Illinois State, Wednesday.
25. **Texas Tech (9-2) did not play.** Next: vs. Alabama State, Tuesday.

THURSDAY'S SCORES

EAST
Wagner 63, Fairfield 50
MIDWEST
Milwaukee 74, Saint Xavier Cougars 52
WEST
Fresno St. 69, Weber St. 43
Pepperdine 96, Westmont 69
Stanford 79, Liberty 76
Vanderbilt 68, Hawaii 54
Wyoming 71, N. Iowa 69

WOMEN'S AP TOP 25 FARED

1. **South Carolina (12-0) did not play.** Next: at Missouri, Thursday.
2. **Stanford (12-0) did not play.** Next: at Washington, Friday, Dec. 31.
3. **Louisville (10-1) did not play.** Next: vs. Boston College, Thursday.
4. **Arizona (10-0) did not play.** Next: at Southern Cal, Friday, Dec. 31.
5. **NC State (11-2) did not play.** Next: at Clemson, Thursday.
6. **Maryland (10-3) did not play.** Next: at Illinois, Thursday.
7. **Tennessee (10-1) did not play.** Next: vs. Chattanooga, Monday.
8. **Indiana (10-2) beat 5. Illinois 70-37.** Next: at Rutgers, Thursday.
9. **Michigan (11-1) did not play.** Next: vs. #24 Ohio State, Friday, Dec. 31.
10. **Baylor (9-2) did not play.** Next: vs. Houston Baptist, Wednesday.
11. **Uconn (6-3) did not play.** Next: vs. Marquette, Wednesday.
12. **Texas (9-1) did not play.** Next: vs. Alcorn State, Wednesday.
13. **Georgia (11-1) did not play.** Next: vs. #21 LSU, Thursday.
13. **Iowa State (11-1) did not play.** Next: vs. West Virginia, Sunday, Jan. 2.
15. **Iowa (6-3) did not play.** Next: at Penn St., Thursday.
16. **Duke (10-1) did not play.** Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday.
17. **Georgia Tech (10-2) did not play.** Next: at Pittsburgh, Thursday.
18. **South Florida (9-4) did not play.** Next: vs. Jacksonville, Wednesday.
19. **BYU (10-1) did not play.** Next: at San Diego, Thursday.
20. **Notre Dame (11-2) did not play.** Next: at Virginia Tech, Thursday.
21. **LSU (11-1) did not play.** Next: vs. Samford, Monday.
22. **Kentucky (7-3) did not play.** Next: at Auburn, Thursday.
23. **Texas A&M (10-2) did not play.** Next: vs. Vanderbilt, Thursday.
24. **Ohio State (9-2) did not play.** Next: at #9 Michigan, Friday, Dec. 31.
25. **North Carolina (11-0) did not play.** Next: vs. Syracuse, Thursday.

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE						
EAST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
New England	9	5	0	.643	367	227
Buffalo	8	6	0	.571	394	243
Miami	7	7	0	.500	285	312
e-N.Y. Jets	3	11	0	.214	250	428
SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Tennessee	9	5	0	.643	337	309
Indianapolis	8	6	0	.571	398	300
e-Houston	3	11	0	.214	207	372
e-Jacksonville	2	12	0	.143	196	370
NORTH	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Baltimore	8	6	0	.571	334	315
Cincinnati	8	6	0	.571	369	303
Pittsburgh	7	6	1	.536	291	335
Cleveland	7	7	0	.500	292	305
WEST	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Kansas City	10	4	0	.714	385	296
L.A. Chargers	8	6	0	.571	379	308
Denver	7	7	0	.500	285	243
Las Vegas	7	7	0	.500	299	274

MEN'S BASKETBALL
Tuesday: at Xavier, 7 p.m.,
FS1

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL
Wednesday: vs. Marquette
(at XL Center), 7 p.m., SNY

UConn
COURANT.COM/SPORTS

R&D

COVERAGE PRESENTED BY

RisCASSI & DAVIS

P.C.

Protecting the rights of the injured for more than 60 years



Evina Westbrook is shooting just 10 for 33 on 3-pointers (30.3%), and UConn is shooting 31.8% beyond the arc as a team.
JESSICA HILL/AP

UConn

from Page 1

The Huskies would also benefit greatly by adding Aubrey Griffin back into the rotation. The junior's status is in question due to lingering back issues that, in addition to a high-ankle sprain, have delayed her season debut. Auriemma wasn't even comfortable to provide a timeline for her potential return.

Better 3-point shooting

Whether it's from Fudd and Mühl once they return, or Westbrook and Williams, threats from the perimeter must come from somewhere. The Huskies weren't a fabulous 3-point shooting team with Bueckers, but since her injury, they've put up some poor numbers from the arc (2 for 15 against Georgia Tech, 3 for 15 against Louisville). Their 3-point clip on the season is merely 31.8%, practically unheard of from a UConn team.

Can Westbrook and Williams get their percentages from the arc closer to the mid- to high-30s? They're both shooting approximately 30%. Can Mühl knock down open shots from the perimeter when she gets back? Or is the best bet that a healthy Fudd finds a groove similar to what we saw in the USF game where she hit 6 of 9 from the arc?

Until any of that happens, the Huskies will remain one-dimensional, easier to defend and the rest of their offense will suffer.

A March 2021-esque Christyn Williams

Williams played the best basketball of her career in the 2021 Big East and NCAA tournaments, emerging as a lockdown defender and an aggressive, effective scorer. That version of Williams has largely been absent to start her senior season. Her best game offensively was when she scored a career-high 31 points against Minnesota, but perhaps most concerning is that when her team has needed her to step up most with Bueckers out, she's averaging just 11.3 points per game.

Maybe this holiday break will do Williams good. She's been known to fall into ruts and eventually pull herself out. If Williams can channel that March 2021 version of herself, she and the Huskies will be in much better shape.



UConn's Christyn Williams is double-teamed by Louisville's Ahlana Smith, left, and Emily Engstler on Sunday in the Hall of Fame Women's Showcase at Mohegan Sun Arena. The Huskies need Williams to regain her form from last March.
CLOE POISSON/SPECIAL TO THE COURANT

A revitalized Aaliyah Edwards

Aside from a great game against Seton Hall, sophomore Aaliyah Edwards has largely been a shell of what she was last season when she was Big East sixth woman of the year. After posting one of the best individual clips from the field in the country (68.9%), she's shooting just 46.2% through nine games. Her rebounds are way down (5.7 per game to 3.6), and she's only taken four shots from the free-throw line. Chiefly, she just hasn't come out with the aggressiveness and tenacity that made Auriemma recruit her in the first place. After starting the first seven games of the season, Auriemma has tried bringing her off the bench, but with minimal impact.

Similar to Williams, a dominant version of Edwards doesn't need to be built from scratch. She just needs to find a way to get back to it.

A résumé-boosting nonconference win

The biggest issue with UConn's five-point loss to Louisville wasn't that it was the third loss of the season for the Huskies. It was arguably more that they missed another opportunity to pick up a signature nonconference win. With conference play about to get underway, the Huskies only have three more non-league games remaining: Jan. 17 at Oregon, which has lost key pieces due to injury and is unranked following a slew of losses; Jan. 27 at top-ranked, undefeated South Carolina; and Feb. 6 vs. No. 7 Tennessee. Based off the recovery timeline provided for Bueckers, she would miss all three of these games.

Currently, the Huskies' best wins are over No. 18 USF and No. 20 Notre Dame. The best option for a résumé-boosting win may be that Tennessee game, but it'll still be a tough matchup as the Vols are ranked in the top 10 while missing their best player, Rae Burrell, who suffered a non-ACL knee injury in the first game of the season.

Most recently, ESPN bracketologist Charlie Creme had UConn as the No. 4 seed in the Bridgeport Region, alongside No. 1 NC State, No. 2 Tennessee and No. 3 Maryland, and he doesn't even have UConn winning the Big East. Some chaos elsewhere across the country could give the Huskies an additional boost up the line.

Mental focus, toughness for 40 minutes

After the Huskies fell to South Carolina in the Bahamas, Auriemma attributed their fourth-quarter collapse to "mental fatigue" and lack of "mental toughness."

With UConn struggling down the stretch in its two most recent losses — scoring five points in the fourth at Georgia Tech and no player outside of Ducharme doing much in the fourth against Louisville — this seems to be a recurring issue for the team. Even in UConn's win over UCLA, the Bruins made a late run to cut the deficit to four, in large part because the Huskies missed 10 of their 19 free-throw attempts in the final frame.

In the practices after the South Carolina game, Auriemma put the team in situations where it was outside its comfort zone to challenge the players to find other ways to win.

Both with and without Bueckers, it's clear this team is not quite there yet.

Did we mention health?

If all goes to plan, Fudd and Mühl will not have recurring problems with their foot injuries this season, Griffin's back issues will be mitigated and the injury bug won't make another round through a team that, due to Saylor Poffenbarger and Mir McLean transfers, is already two players leaner than it was to start the season.

Assuming she doesn't face any setbacks with her recovery, Bueckers should return at some point in February and ideally have enough time to brush the rust off and get re-incorporated into the Huskies' system. The players surrounding her will likely be better, just look at Ducharme's and Dorka Juhász's growth over the last two weeks. The team will have to figure out how to mesh and ensure it has well-defined roles so it can be at its best come March.

It's far from ideal that the Huskies will be without Bueckers for the remainder of their nonconference schedule, but whenever she gets back, there's no doubt that their best shot at making it to Minneapolis and beyond this spring rests in her hands or, well, left knee.

Alexa Philippou
can be reached at
aphilippou@courant.com.



UConn guard Paige Bueckers stumbles while defended by South Carolina forward Victoria Saxton on Nov. 22 at Paradise Island, Bahamas.
TIMAYLEN/AP

KNICKS NOTES

Wizards overcome Walker's 44-point night, win 124-117

By Laura Albanese
Newsday

NEW YORK — Point guard Kemba Walker, playing 43 minutes for a short-handed Knicks squad, had 44 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, but it wasn't enough as the Washington Wizards held on for a 124-117 victory Thursday night at Madison Square Garden.

Spencer Dinwiddie had 21 points and 12 assists, and Corey Kispert scored 20 for a balanced Wizards offense. Kyle Kuzma had 18 points and 10 rebounds as Washington had seven players score in double figures, including all of the starters.

The Knicks gradually are coming out of their COVID-19 outbreak.

RJ Barrett and Quentin Grimes cleared the NBA's health and safety protocols Thursday but didn't play. Obi Toppin, who cleared the protocols Wednesday, had two points and three rebounds in 13 minutes.

The three, who rejoined the team ahead of their game against the Wizards on Thursday evening, were part of seven players to sit due to the virus. Barrett had missed the last five games, while Grimes missed four.

Kevin Knox, Miles McBride, Nerlens Noel and Immanuel Quickley remained in health and safety protocols.

The Knicks also signed guard Danuel House to a 10-day contract. House, who was waived by the Rockets on Dec. 18, averaged 4.8 points, 2.7 rebounds and 1.2 assists in 16 games with Houston.

Thibodeau missing Rose already: Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said Derrick Rose's absence will be felt



Knicks guard Kemba Walker celebrates after hitting a 3-pointer against the Washington Wizards on Thursday in New York.
ADAM HUNGER/AP

far beyond the stat sheet.

Rose, who underwent surgery on his right ankle Wednesday at the Hospital for Special Surgery in Manhattan, will be out for at least eight weeks, at which point he'll be reevaluated, the team said. That, though, could be sped up to six weeks if things progress well, according to a report by ESPN's Adrian Wojnarowski.

"The record obviously speaks for itself, and his impact on the floor, so it was not only what he did himself, but he brought the best out of the people around him," Thibodeau said. "To me, that's the mark of a great player. You get his net rating. You see it was great last year, great this year."

The Knicks are 11-15 with Rose in the lineup this year, but were 24-11 with him last season. He's averaging 12 points a game, with four assists and three rebounds in 26 games this season. He took the starting point guard spot from Walker on Dec. 12, starting in three straight games before getting hurt. Walker has now been playing more with Rose's absence, along with that of the slew of Knicks players in the NBA's health and safety protocols.

Nets

from Page 1

Teams need a minimum of eight players to start a game. Nash said the Nets have more than enough to do that.

But it's unclear if they will have another practice before the game Saturday. Nash said it's only in the last day that healthy players have been able to return to the practice facility for individual workouts.

"It's tricky," Nash said. "We haven't been able to do a lot, but we do what we can and we'll continue to just adapt as the rules and mandates come in."

By late Thursday afternoon, based on team injury reports or similar disclosures, there were more than 90 NBA players dealing with a virus-related issue — often a positive test, though not always.

The list included stars such as Giannis Antetokounmpo, Luka Dončić and Trae Young. All three are scheduled to be part of the NBA's five-game holiday schedule.

Durant was placed in protocols last Saturday along with Kyrie Irving, a day after the Nets said they were bringing the point guard back to play in road games. There's still time for him to return two negative tests 24 hours apart to be cleared, though Nash said

the Nets weren't expecting that.

With the Lakers' Anthony Davis already sidelined with a sprained left knee, Durant's absence would remove another superstar from what was expected to be one of the marquee games of the regular season when it was scheduled.

The Nets have the best record in the Eastern Conference, but Nash said it's going to be difficult to pick up where they left off after not playing for a week.

"We're one of the few teams around that league that's had a pause, so to jump back into the rhythm of the league is a difficult task," he said. "But we have to approach it with excitement and opportunity, and also not put too much pressure on ourselves to re-enter."

Along with Durant, starters LaMarcus Aldridge and DeAndre' Bembry remain in the protocols, along with Bruce Brown, James Johnson and rookie Day'Ron Sharpe. Nash said all of the players were experiencing nothing more than mild symptoms.

Teams are being allowed to sign players to replace those sidelined by positive tests, and at least 40 such hardship contracts — which won't count against a team's salary cap or luxury tax numbers — have been executed in the last few days.

Did you know?

Over 1,300 people are killed and more than 116,800 people are injured in vehicle crashes annually on snowy, slushy, or icy pavement.

riscassi-davis.com

131 Oak Street • Hartford, Connecticut
860.522.1196 • 800.344.5297

R&D

RisCASSI & DAVIS
P.C.
Protecting the rights of the
injured for more than 60 years



NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Colts top NFL with 7 Pro Bowl picks



A Colts team that has often talked about fighting for recognition has finally gotten some. Plenty of it. Led by dazzling second-year running back Jonathan Taylor, the NFL's overall leader in fan voting, the Colts landed a league-high seven players on the 2022 Pro Bowl roster. Joining Taylor, above, from the Colts are: center Ryan Kelly, guard Quenton Nelson, defensive tackle DeForest Buckner, linebacker Darius Leonard, cornerback Kenny Moore II and long snapper Luke Rhodes. Taylor, obviously, was a no-brainer. The second-year player out of Wisconsin leads the NFL with 1,518 rushing yards, 424 more than the next-best running back, and has forced his way into the MVP discussion. Leonard also was an obvious pick. A defensive player of the year candidate, he has six forced fumbles, three fumble recoveries and three interceptions in addition to 107 tackles. The Colts have won five of six games and currently hold the top wild-card-spot in the AFC playoff race. After the Colts in Pro Bowl picks, are the Chiefs and Chargers with six each.

Deal ready for Bellinger, Dodgers



Before Major League Baseball's lock-out began at the start of this month, the Dodgers quietly checked one important item off their winter to-do list. The team agreed to a one-year, \$17 million contract with former National League MVP Cody Bellinger to avoid arbitration. The contract was finished before the lockout began on Dec. 2 — all off-season activity has since been halted — but wasn't revealed publicly until Thursday. ESPN first reported the deal. The \$17 million salary represents a \$900,000 raise from what the outfielder earned last season. Bellinger, 26, is entering his third of four arbitration-eligible seasons and is set to become a free agent after the 2023 campaign. The deal comes in the wake of a roller-coaster season for Bellinger, who struggled with injuries and poor production in the regular season before rebounding with a promising performance in the playoffs. The two-time All-Star underwent surgery following the team's 2020 World Series title for a shoulder injury he sustained in a celebration with then-teammate Kiké Hernández during that year's NLCS.

Legendary volleyball coach retires



Russ Rose retired Thursday as Penn State's women's volleyball coach, ending a 43-year run that featured seven NCAA titles, 109 straight wins from 2007-10 and the Division I career victory record. Rose, 68, will remain in an advisory role within the athletic department. Katie Schumacher-Cawley will serve as interim coach. "While I have decided to step into retirement, it has been my pleasure to serve as the head coach of the Penn State women's volleyball program over the last 43 seasons," Rose, above, said in a statement. "My time here has provided my family and me many memories and relationships that we will carry with us. I would like to thank the many players, managers and support staff for their dedication ... and all of the assistants who helped shape the culture and success of the program." Rose finished with a 1,330-229 record, the most victories in D-I history. He led Penn State to national titles in 1999, 2007-10, '13-14 and 25 conference championships (17, Big Ten; eight, Atlantic 10). As a player, Rose helped George Williams College win the 1974 NAIA title. —News services



RB Jerome Ford and the Cincinnati Bearcats will take on top-ranked Alabama in the CFP semifinals next week. JEFF DEAN/AP

COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF

Bearcats now belong

Cincinnati's semifinal berth giant step to bigger things

By Mitch Stacy
Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The University of Cincinnati has played football for more than a century in the long shadow of Ohio State. After all these years, little brother is making some big noise. For Cincinnati (13-0), playing in the under-the-radar American Athletic Conference, everything fell into place in 2021. The Bearcats landed as the No. 4 seed in the College Football Playoff, crashing what has been the domain of college football's blue bloods, the first school outside a Power Five conference to do so. Meanwhile, back in Columbus, Ohio State fans are still working through the grief of last month's disastrous loss to Michigan, which to many was worse than being shut out of the playoff for the first time in three seasons. The Bearcats scaled the CFP mountain and can see the top from there. Now fifth-year coach Luke Fickell has to figure out how to keep the Bearcats up there as the program prepares to transition to a Power Five conference — the Big 12 — in the next few years. "When I came here, a mindset of mine was, 'I hope someday, that we could become a rival to my alma mater,'" said Fickell, who played at Ohio State and was on its coaching staff for 16 years. "I mean that, all of the sudden, maybe they look at you and recog-

nize that they have to battle against us. Whether we play them on the football field or not, a lot of the other opportunities are in recruiting. That's where we continue to want to be — and that's not just the Ohio State stuff. That's being a top-10 program." Cincinnati has a well-earned national reputation as a basketball school. But it could never compete with the tradition, fan base, facilities and recruiting advantage of the juggernaut Buckeyes. It has, however, had enough football success in the last two decades to become a mid-major stop on the coaching ladder for the likes of Mark Dantonio, Brian Kelly, Butch Jones and presumably Fickell, though he has spurned opportunities to leave. Urban Meyer, the former Ohio State coach, suggested the trajectory of the Cincinnati program could depend on how the Bearcats show against No. 1 Alabama on New Year's Eve with 25 million people watching on TV. "It can be that double-edged sword," Meyer said. A competitive game boosts the profile of the program; a blowout looks bad and raises doubts about whether the Bearcats belonged. "There is a lot of responsibility at Cincinnati to go perform well," said Meyer, who was fired as the Jaguars coach last week. "It is great for them." Curiously enough, Cincinnati and Ohio State, 100 miles apart, have never been football rivals. They've played each other just 17 times, with the Bearcats winning twice — in 1896 and 1897. The last time they met was in 2019, when the Buckeyes sent Fickell and the Bearcats back to the bus with 42-0 loss. The schools once went nearly 70

years without a gridiron clash. Century-old Nippert Stadium on the UC campus has undergone some major renovations in recent years but still seats only around 40,000. (That's smaller than any in the current Big 12.) Fickell built his 2021 team around seniors and transfers who will be gone next season, including quarterback Desmond Ridder, running back Jerome Ford (an Alabama transfer) and most defensive starters. Sustaining the success will be challenging, but Fickell has prioritized recruiting and building for the future. "They've got a top-five team — they're a ways away from having a top-five program, and that's what Ohio State is," said Jim Kelly, a former Bearcats player and radio analyst for more than three decades. "Yeah, they will have some growing pains with some new kids, but they're making strides and truly are ahead of where they were five years ago (when Fickell arrived), in every aspect." Buckeyes fans will keep an eye on the Cincinnati game before settling in to watch No. 6 (CFP) Ohio State's consolation game, a Rose Bowl matchup with No. 11 Utah on New Year's Day. Things will get more interesting if the Bearcats beat two-touchdown favorite Alabama, and No. 2 Michigan takes down No. 3 Georgia. "In a perfect world, Michigan and Cincinnati would play each other in the national championship game — let the coaching sparks fly! — with Fickell getting the best of Jim Harbaugh," columnist Rob Oller wrote in The Columbus Dispatch. "That might even make Buckeye Nation happy, despite being on the outside looking in."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Miami (Ohio) rolls past North Texas

Associated Press

Brett Gabbert completed 22 of 31 passes for 228 yards and two touchdowns, Kenny Tracy scored on an 8-yard run and Graham Nicholson kicked two field goals as Miami (Ohio) beat North Texas 27-14 in the Frisco Football Classic on Thursday in Frisco, Texas. Gabbert, the brother of former NFL QB Blaine Gabbert, threw a 5-yard scoring pass to Kenny Davis late in the second quarter and an 11-yarder to Nate Muersch early in the third for Miami (7-6), which won a bowl game for the first time since the 2010 season. Tracy's touchdown run came late in the first quarter. Nicholson made a 48-yard field goal on the RedHawks' opening drive, which was one yard shy of his season-high, and a 36-yarder in the second quarter. Austin Aune and Isaiah Johnson scored on runs of 2 yards and 1 yard for the Mean Green (6-7). Aune was 15 of 32 passing for 228 yards and two interceptions. North Texas played without two senior starters, running back DeAndre Torrey and safety Makyle Sanders, for unstated reasons. Torrey had averaged 101.3 rushing yards per game, 41% of the 245.5-yard team average that ranked fourth in the FBS. The Mean Green had 32 rushes for a season-low 89 yards, led by Aune's 28 yards.

Rutgers gets Gator Bowl gig: Rutgers will replace Texas A&M in the Gator Bowl against Wake Forest, No. 17 in the CFP rankings, after an NCAA committee decided Thursday to adhere to an existing policy for making teams with 5-7 records bowl eligible. The NCAA football oversight committee also announced that any bowl can be moved to as late as Jan. 10 if the schools involved need additional time to prepare for the game. The Gator Bowl will keep its scheduled date and 11 a.m. EST kickoff on New Year's Eve, meaning Rutgers will have less than a week to get ready to play one of the highest-scoring teams in the country. Rutgers will be making its first bowl appearance since 2014, its first season as a member of the Big Ten. Texas A&M pulled out of the Jacksonville, Florida, game Wednesday because of a lack of available players. The Aggies were having issues with COVID-19, plus they already had been depleted by injuries, opt-outs and players transferring. NCAA rules allow teams with 5-7 records, such as Rutgers, to be bowl eligible if there are not enough six-win teams to fill all the spots. The 5-7 teams with the highest Academic Progress Rate scores have first crack at open slots. Rutgers is atop that list.

Miami delays arrival at Sun Bowl: With Miami continuing to deal with COVID-19 protocols, the Hurricanes decided to arrive in El Paso, Texas, the day before the Sun Bowl in an effort to play the game. Washington State remains set to arrive Sunday for the Dec. 31 matchup. Sun Bowl executive director Bernie Olivas told ESPN on Thursday that Miami is preparing to play as scheduled. The Hurricanes announced Tuesday that the team was in COVID protocols. Multiple players reportedly tested positive for the virus.

Army wins on last-play FG: Cole Talley kicked a 41-yard field goal as time expired and Army rallied to beat Missouri 24-22 in the Armed Forces Bowl on Wednesday night in Fort Worth, Texas. After the Tigers took a 22-21 lead on a TD with 1:11 to play, third-string QB Jabari Laws led Army (9-4) downfield to the Missouri 24-yard line, setting up Talley's winner. Redshirt freshman QB Brady Cook threw a 6-yard TD pass to Keke Chism with 71 seconds left to put the Tigers (6-7) ahead, but his two-point conversion pass sailed over the head of an open Dawson Downing in the end zone. Cook also ran for a 30-yard score in his first collegiate start. Missouri played without second-team All-America RB Tyler Badie, who was held out by coach Eliah Drinkwitz in advance of the NFL draft. Starting QB Connor Bazalak was sidelined because of a leg injury. Bazalak, a sophomore, announced Thursday that he's entering the transfer portal.

Today's bowl game






Hawaii Bowl
Memphis (6-6) vs. Hawaii (6-7)
8 p.m., ESPN

KEY MATCHUP
Memphis QB Seth Henigan vs. Hawaii pass defense. Henigan has thrown for 3,322 yards and 25 touchdowns against eight interceptions this season. The freshman ranks 10th in the FBS with an average of 302 yards passing per game. The Tigers are 16th in passing offense, averaging 294.4 yards per game, while the Rainbow Warriors are 127th with 289.7 yards passing allowed per game. Hawaii also is tied for fifth nationally with 27 takeaways, including 14 interceptions on the year.

— Associated Press

WEATHER

FRIDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Morning clouds and light snow, becoming partly sunny. Light snow or a wintry mix is possible after midnight.

HIGH 38°
LOW 27°

SATURDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Chance for a wintry mix and rain in the morning, mostly cloudy, afternoon showers or periods of rain.

HIGH 41°
LOW 33°

SUNDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Partly sunny and not as cool.

HIGH 44°
LOW 25°

MONDAY






SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Mixed clouds and some morning sunshine, seasonable.

HIGH 38°
LOW 28°

TUESDAY







SUNRISE NOON SUNSET

Considerable cloudiness, chance for a shower or two, milder.

HIGH 44°
LOW 31°

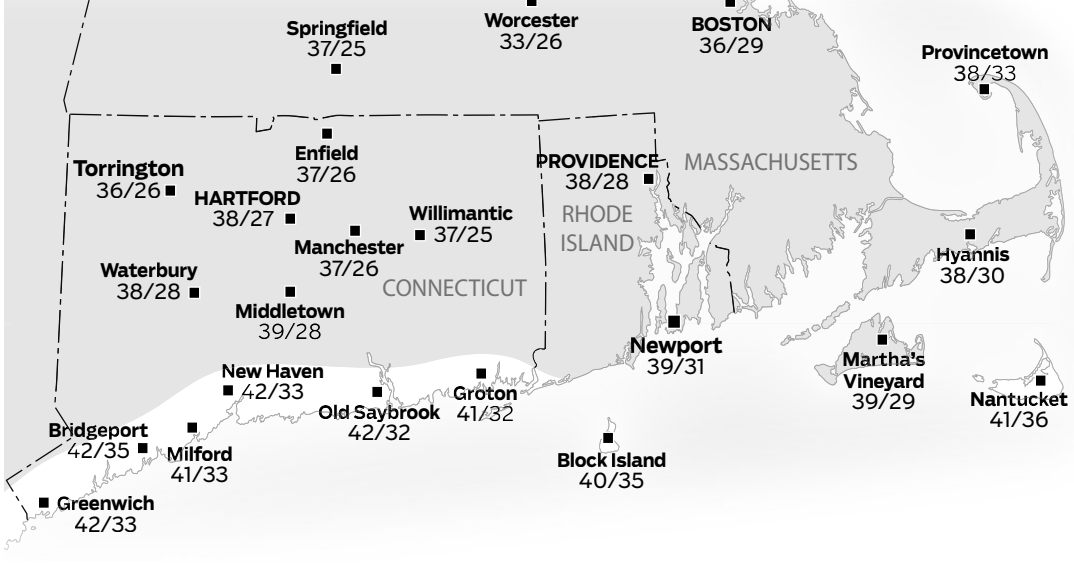
CONNECTICUT WEATHER

For the latest weather news throughout your day.



courant.com/weather

YOURCAST



OUTLOOK

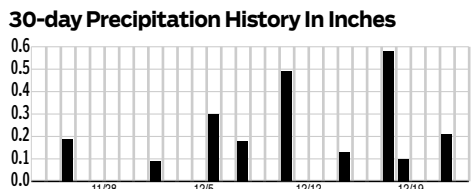
Chances for a white Christmas, an inch or more of snow on the ground at 7 a.m., are diminishing by the day, but that hasn't always been the case. In 1945, there was a record for the date of 28 inches of snow on the ground in the Greater Hartford area, and that's more than occurred in whole winter seasons. Amazingly, there was a stretch from 1905 to 1918 that the only year that didn't have a white Christmas was 1913. How things changed one hundred years later. Since 1996, only two years have had a white Christmas, 2002 and 2017. Merry Christmas and happy holidays to all.

-Gary Lessor

ALMANAC

Precipitation In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 7 p.m.)	0.00	0.12
Month to date	2.08	3.10
Total this year	54.07	46.07
Snowfall In Inches	Total	Normal
Yesterday (by 4 p.m.)	0.0	0.4
Total this year	2.1	8.9

Precipitation, temperature at Windsor Locks



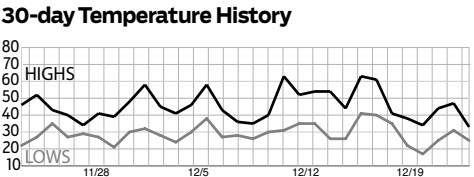
Tides	High	Low	Temp.
N.L. State Pier	12:50 a.m.	6:49 a.m.	44°
	12:51 p.m.	7:36 p.m.	
Saybrook Jetty	2:01 a.m.	7:42 a.m.	44°
	2:02 p.m.	8:29 p.m.	
Connecticut River at Portland	4:44 a.m.	11:28 a.m.	
Madison	4:45 p.m.	p.m.	
	2:05 a.m.	8:00 a.m.	43°
	2:13 p.m.	8:33 p.m.	
New Haven	2:25 a.m.	8:24 a.m.	43°
	2:33 p.m.	8:57 p.m.	
Stamford	2:29 a.m.	8:38 a.m.	45°
	2:37 p.m.	9:11 p.m.	

River Stage at Hartford: 5.22 feet at 5:30 p.m.

Boating Weather	L.I. Sound W	L.I. Sound E	B.I. Sound
Shower	Showers	Showers	Showers
Wind	E/N, 5-10	E/N, 5-10	SE/NE, 5-10
Seas	1 ft.	1 ft.	2-3 ft.

Temperature	High	Low
Thursday	33 at 2:43 p.m.	25 at 7:43 a.m.
Normal for date	39	23
Record for date	61 in 1990	-5 in 1989
A year ago	42	26
Range this year	99	1

Heating Degree Days	Season	Normal	Last Season
For July 1 - Dec 23	1588	1888	1723



Atmosphere	High	Low
Barometer	30.18 at 6 p.m.	29.84 at 12 a.m.
Dew point	15° at 12 a.m.	-3° at 1 p.m.

AROUND THE WORLD

Today's forecast in cities not included in the maps above:

NEW ENGLAND		
Bangor	26	7 S
Burlington	29	19 PC
Caribou	15	-1 S
Concord	32	16 PC
Montpelier	25	14 PC
Mt. Wash.	14	13 PC
Portland	33	17 PC
Woods Hole	37	30 SF
NATION		
Albany	35	26 PC
Albuquerque	51	33 C
Atlantic City	51	36 PC

Baltimore	52	40 C
Bismarck	29	5 PC
Boise	39	33 SF
Buffalo	45	39 C
Charleston	68	49 S
Cincinnati	55	52 C
Cleveland	50	48 C
Indianapolis	54	52 C
Jacksonville	70	48 S
Las Vegas	63	44 SH
Miami Beach	77	68 PC
Milwaukee	49	36 C
Nashville	63	58 PC
New Orleans	78	62 PC
New York	45	38 PC
Okla. City	82	52 PC
Omaha	57	31 PC
Orlando	76	53 PC
Pittsburgh	50	46 C
Raleigh	62	46 PC
St. Louis	71	56 C
Salt Lake City	46	39 SH
San Antonio	78	60 PC
San Diego	61	53 R

San Juan	85	74 R
Tucson	64	49 SH
WORLD		
Amsterdam	45	36 R
Athens	57	45 S
Bangkok	91	73 PC
Barbados	84	72 S
Beijing	27	14 C
Berut	49	42 PC
Berlin	39	25 SH
Bermuda	68	61 PC
Budapest	42	35 SH
Buenos Aires	95	73 SH
Cairo	64	47 PC
Cancun	78	70 SH
Dubai	81	68 PC
Dublin	50	41 SH
Edinburgh	43	38 SH
Helsinki	18	7 PC
Hong Kong	72	63 SH
Istanbul	48	46 PC
Jerusalem	50	45 SH
Johannesburg	75	59 T
Kingston	90	75 PC
Lisbon	61	55 R
London	52	46 C
Madrid	55	48 R
Mexico City	75	50 S
Milan	41	34 SH
Montreal	14	5 PC
Moscow	16	12 S
Nassau	84	70 PC
New Delhi	73	50 PC
Paris	48	45 SH
Prague	50	34 SH
Rio de Janeiro	78	68 T
Rome	57	54 C
Seoul	36	7 C
Singapore	91	75 T
Stockholm	20	13 PC
Sydney	81	70 SH
Tel Aviv	60	43 C
Tokyo	55	37 PC
Toronto	41	37 SH
Vancouver	37	32 R
Warsaw	32	21 SH

WEDNESDAY'S LATE HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-Inter	
NEW BRITAIN 46, NEWINGTON 44	
NEW BRITAIN (1-2):	Marion Figueroa 6-4-18, Dontay Bishop 5-0-10, Xavier Goode 3-1-9, Stephen Charneco 2-0-4, Gerard Brown 1-0-2, Demari Johnson 1-0-2, Juan Desiderio 0-1-1. Totals 18-6-46.
NEWINGTON (1-2):	Nick Gagliardi 4-4-14, Noah Tharaldson 4-3-11, Alex Cucuta 3-0-8, Freddie Martinez 2-1-6, Sean Hurley 1-3-5. Totals 14-11-44.
NB	11 23 9 3 - 46
N	9 9 17 4 - 48

Shoreline	
EAST HAMPTON 49, VALLEY REGIONAL 47	
VALLEY REGIONAL (2-1):	Di'Angelo Jean-Pierre 2-1-5, Simon Partya 4-1-12, Andrew Yermenson 2-0-5, Sam Hutchinson 5-0-10, James Marsden 3-2-8, Brayden Shea 2-1-5. Totals 19-5-47.
EAST HAMPTON (1-1):	Ethan Palma 1-3-5, Brady Lynch 1-0-2, Drew DiStefano 2-2-7, Jye Lynch 3-2-8, Jack Blackey 4-0-8, Nate Ireland 7-5-19. Totals 18-12-49.
VR	9 15 11 12 - 47
EH	8 15 6 20 - 49

CRAL	
HMTCA 78, CIVIC LEADERSHIP 31	
CIVIC LEADERSHIP (0-2):	Noah Hicks 1-4-6, Chris Norton 5-1-12, Donovan Brown 1-0-3, Cam Morle 2-1-5, Javier Negron 1-1-3, Jared Robins 1-0-2. Totals 11-7-31.
HMTCA (1-1):	Seth Moore 5-0-12, Christian Smith 9-0-20, Corey Jerrick 4-2-11, Eyad Anwer 11-0-22, Josh O'Neal 5-1-11, Russell Smith 1-0-2. Totals 30-3-78.
CL	2 12 8 9 - 31
H	32 11 19 16 - 78

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CRAL	
CLASSICAL 51, MLC 32	
CLASSICAL (3-1):	Jasmine Charley 7-0-15, Kyeera Hall 2-2-6, Jazeya Marti-nez 1-0-2, Saraiya Solomon 0-1-1, Summer Tullier 1-0-2, Sequoia Turcotte-Briggs 8-4-23, Jaylene Perez 1-0-2. Totals 20-7-51.
MLC (0-3):	Natalia Dupiton 1-6-8, Aaliyah Graves 4-3-11, Tene McFarlane 3-0-6, Dominique Pierre-Emile 1-0-2, Zanaida Charway 2-1-5. Totals 11-10-32.
C	17 11 18 5 - 51
M	1 9 4 18 - 32
Others	
SOMERS 49, HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH 31	
HADDAM-KILLINGWORTH (0):	Cheyenne Latouche 4-0-8, Ella Commerford 1-0-3, Julia Favallora 2-0-4, Kaleigh Bodak 4-3-11, Audra Yazmer 1-1-3, Aya Romino 1-0-2. Totals 13-4-31.
SOMERS (0):	Sydney Cassidy 1-0-2, Deirdre Dalesio 4-1-10, Devon Dalesio 5-0-12, Eliana Wood 7-2-19, Grace Majowicz 1-2-4, Erin Donohue 1-0-2. Totals 19-5-49.
HK	7 7 8 9 - 31
S	15 14 7 13 - 49

CCC-South	
E.O. SMITH 11, ENFIELD 7, ENFIELD CO-OP 1	
E	0 0 1 - 1
EOS	0 3 4 - 7

Goals: EOS	Keegan Hodgkinson (2), Cole Schoen (2), Damian Till, Cam Sterling, Quentin Wry
E	Colin

Tavernier. Saces: EOS—Dan Polgun, 19 E—Nick Morrell, 24. Rec.: EOS—3-0 E-0-3. Note: Till also had 2assists. CCC-Inter	
HALL 7, NORTHEASTERN 1	
Goals: H	Hudson Hollander (2), Ethan Stagg, Ben Gerken, Matt Ganey, Matt Fingold, Harry Fingold
N	0 1 0 - 1
H	2 4 1 - 7

WRESTLING

CCC-Inter	
RHAM 57, GLASTONBURY 16	
CONARD 39, NEW BRITAIN 29	
ECC	
EAST LYME/NORWICH TECH 51, BACON ACADEMY 24	

THURSDAY'S HIGH SCHOOL RESULTS

BOYS BASKETBALL

CCC-North	
WETHERSFIELD 60, ROCKY HILL 50	
WETHERSFIELD (1-2):	Robert Ruiz Rivera 6-7-19, Torrance Smith 1-0-2, Jack Freitas 4-2-11, Jomar Feliciano 4-1-9, Tommy Daly 3-2-8, Andrew Knapp 4-2-10, Ryan Gagne 0-1-1. Totals 22-14-60.
ROCKY HILL (0-4):	Jayden Osel-Tutu 5-2-12, Casey Robinson 1-0-2, Yazdan Aftab 0-1-1, Tyler Carlstrom 5-0-12, Jake Politis 4-0-8, Evan Sikorski 3-1-9, Shiv Ghutadaria 3-0-6. Totals 21-4-50.
W	17 8 15 20 - 60
RH	7 16 12 15 - 53

WINDSOR 116, HARTFORD PUBLIC 53	
CCC-South	
MIDDLETOWN AT BRISTOL CENTRAL, PPD	
BRISTOL EASTERN AT LEWIS MILLS, PPD.	

CCC-East	
RHAM 64, TOLLAND 45	
TOLLAND (1-2):	Nathan Bowes 6-1-15, Mitchell Enman 2-1-5, Cullen Rublewski 6-0-15, Matt Tybor 3-0-6, Joey Keane 1-1-4. Totals 18-3-45.
RHAM (3-0):	Matt Fraleigh 2-3-7, Jimmy Hulland 6-2-20, Spencer Pilkington 4-0-9, Aidan Allen 4-1-9, Pat Kelly 4-1-9, Troy Miller 0-2-0, Alex Demosthenous 1-1-3. Totals 24-8-64.
T	13 8 9 15 - 45
R	14 19 17 14 - 64

ENFIELD 44, E.O. SMITH 41	
MANCHESTER AT EAST CATHOLIC, PPD.	

CCC-West	
NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 74, HALL 59	
NORTHWEST CATHOLIC (3-1):	Matthew Curtis 8-5-22, London Jimerson 5-1-14, Tanner Ostop 1-0-3, Gianni Mirabello 8-1-20, Badara Diakite 7-0-15. Totals 29-7-74.
HALL (1-2):	Amare Dugue 6-6-21, Amecca Freeman 2-0-5, Ixael Albino 4-0-11, Harris Berson 1-0-3, Spencer Berson 1-0-2, Alex Moemeka 5-0-13, Joe Dooley 2-0-4. Totals 21-6-59.
CONARD 38, SOUTHTON 30	
GLASTONBURY AT FARMINGTON, PPD.	

Shoreline	
HALE-RAY 67, WESTBROOK 41	

GIRLS BASKETBALL

CCC-North	
NEWINGTON 43, NEW BRITAIN 20	
NEWINGTON (4-0):	Lilly Ferguson 6-5-18, Karissa Zocco 1-0-2, Adriana Romano 1-1-3, Bela Cucuta 2-4-9, Marlie Zocco 1-0-2, Arianna Barnes 1-0-2, Ella Stair 0-2-2, Selah Prignano 1-0-2, Kendall Miller 1-0-3. Totals 14-12-43.
NEW BRITAIN (1-3):	Adrianna Faienza 1-0-2, Kye Kye Denmark 2-2-6, Xandra Silva 1-2-5, Layla Mejia 2-0-5, Jamily Carter 1-0-2. Totals 7-4-20.

N	11 12 8 12 - 43
NB	3 8 4 5 - 20

Note: Ferguson had 11rebounds, 3 steals, K. Zocco had 5rebounds, 3steals and Miller had 4steals.	
WINDSOR AT HARTFORD PUBLIC, PPD.	
CCC-South	
MIDDLETOWN 59, BRISTOL CENTRAL 49	
BRISTOL CENTRAL (0-3):	Lillian Sirois 8-3-19, Brooke Watson 3-2-8, Gabriella Watson 2-0-4, Callie Lodovico 3-1-8, Arianna Rivera 4-2-10. Totals 20-8-49.
MIDDLETOWN (3-1):	Shalyn Smith 6-3-16, Jada Bryant 5-2-12, Alexa DeSena 3-0-6, Tyah Pettaway 5-0-10, Tajahnae Brock 1-0-2, Shadade Bushay 6-1-13. Totals 26-6-59.
BC	11 11 10 17 - 49
M	16 18 17 8 - 59

PLATT 35, PLAINVILLE 27	
PLATT (3-1):	Vianna Alcantara 1-0-2, Kayliana Cruz 1-0-2, Khrystina Campbell 1-0-3, Na'shyla Preston 1-0-2, Antwanette Tann 13-0-27. Totals 17-0-35.
PLAINVILLE (0-5):	Lillian Wazorko 2-3-14, Elyse Brown 2-0-5, Cassiane Montanez 3-0-7, Marissa Miller 0-0-1. Totals 7-3-27.
PLT	13 4 6 12 - 35
PLN	9 5 7 6 - 27

CCC-East	
MANCHESTER 65, EAST CATHOLIC 39	
EAST CATHOLIC (0-4):	Kayliana Salazar 2-1-3, Alexis Jablonewski 4-0-9, Shea Boyle 4-3-11, Zoe Latina 4-0-10, Brianna Bak 2-0-4, Gabby Thompson 1-0-2. Totals 17-4-39.
MANCHESTER (1-3):	Madison Boilard 1-2-55,Anai Worrell 4-1-6, Mia Gilbert 1-0-3, Tiara Tyson 16-3-38, Elise Ryan 2-0-5, Olivia Westfort 4-0-8. Totals 28-6-65.
EC	18 6 8 7 - 39
M	14 20 18 13 - 65

E.O. SMITH 59, ENFIELD 25	
ENFIELD (2-1):	Mia Daly 1-0-2, Alyssa Rossignol 2-0-4, Sydney Marshall 3-0-6, Taylor Gochee 1-1-3, Anyah Rosado 4-0-8, Meg Marcotte 1-0-2. Totals 12-1-25.
E.O. SMITH (3-1):	Julia Winakor 1-0-3, Jill Dinger 1-0-3, Olivia Verboven 2-0-5, Paige Raynor 2-0-6, Madeline Greene 1-0-2, Kate McAvoy 3-0-8, Riley DeForest 1-0-2, Claire Greene 3-0-8, Mira Mahmood 2-0-4, Lilli Clark 3-0-6, Maddie Hughes 1-7-9, Bella Mallory 1-1-3. Totals 21-8-59.
E	6 6 8 5 - 25
EOS	12 18 13 16 - 59

CCC-West	
SIMSBURY 59, AVON 37	
AVON (1-4):	Sophie Mango 4-1-9, Lindsey Arigoni 2-0-6, Erin Geary 3-3-9, Adi Standish 4-0-8, Gianna Godbout 1-0-3, Lindsay Snyder 0-2-2. Totals 14-6-37.
SIMSBURY (5-0):	Lauren Sabia 6-1-14, Moira Hughes 0-0-1-1, Katie Perlitz 1-0-2, Olivia Jarvis 10-0-20, Alex Peterson 1-0-3, Faye Kaplinski 6-1-14, Amanda Gallagher 2-0-5. Totals 26-3-59.
A	11 2 12 13 - 37
S	20 12 16 11 - 59

Of note: Kaplinski had a double-double with 10rebounds and Sabia had 8 assists.	
NORTHWEST CATHOLIC 59, HALL 52	
FARMINGTON AT GLASTONBURY, PPD.	

ECC	
BACON ACADEMY 58, NORWICH FREE ACADEMY 18	
NFA (0-3):	Neveah Yorke 1-0-3, Jordan Fabry 1-0-2, Nayla Stone 0-2-2, Aislinn Richmond 0-1-1, Caitlin Daley 0-2-2, Emily Orcutt 2-0-4, Hannah Graham 1-2-4. Totals 5-7-18.
BACON ACADEMY (5-0):	Ashley Lizotte 1-3-5, Olivia Tellar 2-1-5, Grace Saldana 0-2-2, Emilee Ferrigno 1-0-2, Ariel Nair 1-0-2, Valerie Luizzi 4-1-10, Katelyn Novak 3-0-8, Marissa Nudd 6-4-16, Cara Shea 2-0-4, Emma Mancuso 2-0-4. Totals 22-11-58.
NFA	1 3 5 9 - 18
BA	15 15 11 17 - 58

Of note: Nudd had